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THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

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◀◀ FORT RILEY, KANSAS ▶▶

Future is now for field artillery

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

Looking to the past to predict the future, the Army has tasked its oldest unit to test one of its newest weapons. Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, conducted the first stage of test firing the new the M109A7 Paladin howitzer Dec. 5 through 7 on the expansive ranges of Fort Riley.

The 1st Bn., 5th FA Regt., is the oldest regular Army unit on active duty, having shot supportive fires as far back as the Revolutionary War when they were commanded by Alexander Hamilton.

"Hamilton's Own" recently tested the future of mobile Army artillery. They will continue to fire more rounds as the testing phases continue in early 2018.

They will then become the first artillery unit to field the new Paladin Integrated Management system in the Army.

"I think by the Army choosing us to test the equipment means we are setting the standard," said 1st Lt. Sabina Montgomery, 2nd Platoon leader, Battery

B, 1st Bn., 5th FA Regt., 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. "We have exceeded the standard since we started firing. I think they picked the best unit to field this equipment."

The more modern M109A7 system looks similar to its predecessor, the M109A6, on the outside, but the inside is where the new PIM becomes more lethal, said Staff Sgt. Eric Doriot, chief of section, Battery B, 1st Bn., 5th FA Regt. 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div.

"They did quite a few upgrades on the inside to accommodate the crew and to hold more rounds so it is easier to utilize the piece," Doriot said. "To fire, it is far better than the old system. It weighs a little more so the recoil isn't as bad. The up armor on them helps dampen the noise so we don't have the blast overpressure." Doriot refers to the pressure caused by a shock wave over and above normal atmospheric pressure.

Another significant upgrade in the new model is the driver's area.

"The driver's hull has a new system that allows them to drive daytime or nighttime in various weather (conditions) and it won't affect them as bad

See ARTILLERY, page 3

Soldiers blast through artillery honors



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, receive a special muzzle cover from Col. David Gardner, 2nd ABCT commander, for winning the Top Gun competition Nov. 23 in Torun, Poland.

'Lightning Battalion' compete at Top Field

Story and photo by Capt. Orland Howard
2ND ABCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ZAGAN, Poland — The Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, conducted a Top Gun and Top Fire Direction Center competition to determine the best Howitzer gun and FDC Nov. 19 through 23 at Torun, Poland.

Top Gun and Top FDC are distinguished designa-

tions given to artillery gun sections and fire direction center sections who best demonstrate their ability to perform crews drills associated with their sections' role in the canon firing process as well as other Soldier tasks that are critical to a section's success.

The "First Lightning" battalion used the event to promote healthy competition and esprit de corps, and also to sustain their readiness and ability to deliver timely and accurate fires.

They are deployed to Central Europe in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, a mission that provides a continuous U.S. armored brigade combat team presence in the region.

First Lightning comprises six platoons with three M109A6 Paladin 155mm artillery sections per platoon. Each platoon is assigned a fire direction center to direct the fires of the Howitzer sections.

There were six FDC sections who competed and the

competition was tight up to the last event, said 1st Lt. Alex Plimpton, fire direction officer for the winning team, Bull 20.

Their events were the assembly and disassembly of their M-4 carbines and M240B machine guns, construction of an OE-254 antenna, the preventative maintenance checks and services of their tracked vehicle, a short field exercise with pre-combat checks and inspections and setting up

See HONORS, page 3



A new M109A7 Paladin howitzer fires an artillery round from a Fort Riley range Dec. 6. Soldiers from Battery D, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, fired the new artillery pieces as part of the initial testing phase.

Polish, US medics wrap-up first-aid training in Zary

Story and photo by Spc. Dustin Biven
22ND MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

ZAGAN, Poland – Polish and U.S. Soldiers hosted a multinational first-aid training exercise at the Zary, Poland, city hall Dec. 8. The training allowed students from the surrounding public schools to participate in hands-on learning with medical supplies such as tourniquets, splints and gauze.

Roughly 50 middle school and high school students gathered in an auditorium at city hall to be taught basic life-saving skills.

"The training that we taught was a very basic, but effective, level of first aid," said Capt. Jade Snader, brigade nurse for 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. "By the end of the training, the students should know how to stop bleeding and apply things like a splint or tourniquet."

After being briefed on what the students would learn, they were divided into two groups. One group initially focused on treating broken, fractured or damaged appendages with both medical and improvised supplies, while the other group learned how to properly stop and control bleeding as well as apply a standard and improvised tourniquet.

The Polish and U.S. medics worked together to instruct the students on how to assess a wound or injury and how to treat it. Each student had a chance to gain hands-on experience.

"The training is pertinent to people of all ages, locations, races and ethnicity," Snader said. "You never know when you are going to need it. You can be at school, work or even at home. The skills taught here today are important because despite language and cultural barriers, we're all the same. We are all humans who, when hurt, need someone to lend a helping hand."

With the help of the medics from the Polish and U.S. military, each student learned how to dress and bandage a simulated wound and apply a splint and tourniquet to one of their peers.

"The medical training provided today is not only practical but extremely valuable," said Agnieszka Izdebska, the crisis management official at Zary City Hall. "Our goal is to continue this kind of training with both Polish and American Soldiers. The students seem to get a lot of it."

Michalina Tomkow-Spurek, a teacher at Primary School No. 5 in Zagan, Poland, brought four of her students to the medical training.

"Two of my students were already very proficient at first aid," Spurek said. "I knew most of the training would just be a refresher for them, but to my surprise, they all were able to learn something."

This is the second time the U.S. has partnered with the Polish military in Zary to teach local residents basic first aid and life-saving skills.



Capt. Charles Powell, left, physician assistant with 82nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, shows Maja Kowalska, a student at Zary, Poland School District No. 5, how to properly apply an improvised dressing to an arm wound during first aid training held at Zary City Hall Dec. 8.

FORT RILEY VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Sarah Hardin, from the Fort Riley Spouses Club, helps spread the word about and give spouses a group to form connections through the club. She ensures the club has can raise funds for the Combined Scholarship Fund as well as community welfare grants for the greater Fort Riley area.

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

IN THIS ISSUE



SANTA AND HIS ELVES BRING HOLIDAY SPIRIT TO FAMILIES AT PROJECT NORTH POLE, SEE PAGE 11

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



STROLL THROUGH HOLIDAY MARKETS FOR STOCKING STUFFERS AND GIFTS, SEE PAGE 16

Soldiers from 'Long Knife' squadron roll into Poland



Cpl. Justin Falci, a DeForest, Wisconsin native and a combat medic with the 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley waits in an armored personnel carrier before loading it onto a train in Swietosow, Poland Dec. 2, as part of an emergency deployment readiness exercise in support of Atlantic Resolve.

Story and photo by Spc. Hubert Delany
22ND MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

ADAZI, Latvia — The Army is a globally responsive force that can deploy at a moment's notice. The Soldiers of 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, recently tested this ability during a no-notice drill in Eastern Europe.

The exercise for the Soldiers assigned to the "Long Knife" squadron tested the unit's capacity to quickly move armored vehicles and equipment by rail from western Poland to Latvia Dec. 1 through 7.

Completing this mission required the Soldiers to rapidly determine the best methods to quickly move their equipment more than 700 miles and over international borders. Their solution combined military assets from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and the U.S.

"It's impressive, the speed at which coordination is made between NATO allies," said 1st Lt. Kyle Bouchard, a Derry, New Hampshire, native and the executive officer for 5th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt.'s Troop T. "With such a daunting task at

hand, everybody was extremely quick to work together to overcome any obstacles along the way."

This most recent drill required the Soldiers to plan and execute their mission within 24 hours of receiving orders.

The discipline the Soldiers displayed in the face of extreme environmental conditions showed how well trained and how hard working they are, Bouchard said. "Every Soldier in our ranks has given everything they got. I appreciate them, and I am very proud of them for that."

Over the next few months, other units in the 2nd ABCT will be executing similar missions throughout Europe as part of their deployment in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, a U.S. mission to fulfill NATO commitments by rotating U.S.-based units throughout Europe.

"We are always supposed to be ready to fight at anytime and anywhere," said Pfc. Shakir York, a Houston, Texas, native and a cavalry scout with 5th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt. "This is good training ... This kind of weather, this kind of place — it's one of the best parts about being in the Army."

Army Emergency Relief director visits Fort Riley to build relationships

By Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Retired Lt. Gen. Raymond V. Mason, director of Army Emergency Relief, visited Fort Riley Dec. 7 alongside retired Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Durr, chief of financial assistance for AER.

Mason and Durr visited the post as part of an ongoing effort to meet with Soldiers and their family members at installations with AER locations to understand their needs and wants, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of AER there.

"My Sergeant Major and I are from Army Emergency Relief and we are here to both impart some information about AER and inform Soldiers and family members about the programs of AER," Mason said. "... we want to hear from Soldiers and family members — where are we meeting the needs? Where are we not? What programs can we put in place to perhaps better meet the needs of the Army family?"

Mason was appointed director in January 2017 and said he started visiting installations with AER branches shortly thereafter. He estimates he spends 1 1/2 to two weeks of each month traveling to another installation.

"There's nothing like hearing it firsthand from Soldiers at the most junior to most senior level what they're experiencing," he said. "Each post is a little bit unique and we want to hear from Fort Riley where we meet the need and where we need to adjust our program to better meet the needs."

Clint Strutt, Fort Riley Financial Readiness Program manager, said Mason and Durr

are looking to understand what unique challenges face each installation, as well as improve their communication of AER assistance to Soldiers and dependents at these locations about everything from grants to loans and scholarships.

"It's always good for folks to lay eyes on what's going on at a particular section," Strutt said. "Going through and doing all of these visits at kind of the same time will allow Lt. Gen. Mason and Command Sgt. Maj. Durr to really identify good best practices from each one of the AER sections and bring those back to the sections that might be able to use those."

Mason said visiting each installation shows him firsthand the needs of the Soldiers there because no two installations are the same. He can read the reports and statistics to see what the most common AER requests are, but that doesn't tell him why they're coming in.

"Here at Fort Riley, the number one category of assistance that we provide is car repair and car replacement up to \$4,000," he said. "Across the Army, that's about number two. Number one across the Army is rent and deposit on rent, but I think the Manhattan (Kansas) and Fort Riley area not being as high a cost as Washington, D.C., or Hawaii, car repair is certainly the big need that's here."

Mason and Durr spent their visit in multiple sensing sessions with senior spouses, chaplains, commands, junior and senior noncommissioned officers and other parties to meet with a broad variety of people who may need, have needed, or know someone who needs, AER assistance. These sessions let them present AER's services

while also receiving feedback and constructive criticisms from those they met with.

"I think what's nice about the different sessions that they've set up is they've worked really hard to get a cross section of some junior NCOs, some company commanders, the folks that really use AER as a tool for their Soldiers on a regular basis and those are going to be the folks you really need to solicit information from," Strutt said.

Mason said the Fort Riley AER program was among the best in the Army and his visit allowed him to pick up new best practices he would like to see executed at other installations. However, he also found areas for improvement to help Fort Riley develop a stronger program.

"We have a magnificent program here — one of the best in the Army," Mason said. "All the numbers and statistics indicate that and then the feedback we've been getting from the sessions tells us that, but there's always room for improvement and we're always trying to be innovative. The Army changes. This is a 21st century Army."

Fort Riley handles about 100 AER requests a month, Strutt said. One of the biggest challenges is finding the proper communication outlets to relay information about the loans, grants and scholarships available. During the sensing session with the senior spouses, Strutt took notes as the spouses offered their ideas and opinions that included family engagement activities.

Mason said his visit to Fort Riley was productive and he took a lot from it to help better the program across the Army and assist more Soldiers and their families.

Army secretary commits to building more agile force

Story and photo by Codi Kozacek
NTC-FORT IRWIN PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper underscored his commitment to building a more agile, lethal and technologically advanced combat force during a visit to the National Training Center Dec. 1.

Just two weeks after his confirmation as the Army's top civilian leader, Esper traveled to NTC to observe firsthand how units prepare for battle. Enhancing Army readiness is a top priority for the secretary, and NTC is a key component of that effort. The training center is the proving ground for the Army's Brigade Combat Teams.

"It's a privilege for me to come and spend time out here at NTC," Esper told infantry Soldiers from the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, out of Fort Hood, Texas, which was finishing a training rotation at NTC. "There's a high-end fight out there waiting for us. This is where we're going to learn."

During his visit, Esper met with commanders and Soldiers to discuss initiatives to grow the mission capability and combat power of Army forces.

One area of focus, he said, is streamlining training tasks so units can dedicate all their time and energy to honing mission-essential skills and maneuvers. That includes eliminating extraneous, irrelevant training and transitioning classroom instruction, as much as possible, into mission-oriented exercises.

Another line of effort is ensuring units receive the resources necessary to widen the United States' advantage over its adversaries. That effort starts with

high-quality personnel, and Esper reiterated the Army will continue to enforce the most rigorous standards for recruits. He also emphasized the need to get modernized equipment and the latest technology into the hands of Soldiers more quickly and to ensure that Soldiers have the training and experience to be able to operate and maintain that equipment at the highest level.

The end goal is building a force that can deploy anywhere in the world and win the toughest fights against the most advanced adversaries. That's where the complex scenarios replicated at NTC come into play.

While its mountainous Mojave Desert landscape evokes the battlefields of Central Asia, NTC is constantly innovating to simulate the latest emerging threats across the globe — from drone attacks, to contested air superiority, to cyber and electronic warfare that disrupts communications.

Those threats are added on top of all the other challenges units must confront. Each NTC rotation is designed to encompass the entire spectrum of combat. Among the obstacles units face are a free-thinking, peer-level opposing force, chemical weapon attacks, insurgent and criminal forces, logistical problems, and a suite of ethical dilemmas and distractions presented by civilian role players.

"If you really want a unit to be ready, you have to train at this level and this tempo," said Brig. Gen. Jeff Broadwater, commander of NTC and Fort Irwin.

The strain of an NTC rotation reveals valuable lessons about which tactics, and which technologies, work under real-world combat conditions. Esper discussed these insights with NTC leadership, as



John Martinez, senior leadership of the Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper speaks with Col. Wilson R. Rutherford IV, commander, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division about the unit's experience at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California Dec. 1.

well as with commanders and Soldiers from the current rotational unit. He reaffirmed his dedication to modernizing the Army's technology to give U.S. forces an edge over the most sophisticated opponents.

Yet even with technological advances, Esper said the Army must remain committed to the mastery of basic warfighting skills, such as reading terrain and navigating without the aid of electronic

systems. His sentiment was echoed by NTC leaders, who said the ability to think creatively and implement simple solutions to problems remains the strength of the most successful brigade combat teams.

"We always tell units, 'there's no secret sauce, no secret recipe,'" said Col. Christopher Norrie, commander of Operations Group. "It's all about getting the fundamentals right."



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Laura Fisher
Store Manager



Tonya Fisher
Assistant Manager

ARTILLERY Continued from page 1

while driving with (night-vision goggles),” Montgomery said. “There are so many upgrades, it is going to a lot better than what we had before.”

Montgomery values her experience with the older version of PIM, but she is looking forward to the future of the self-propelled, heavily armored artillery system.

“We can become the subject-matter experts as it develops and grows in the Army,” Montgomery said. “Being on the older equipment for a short amount of time, these are definitely an upgrade and I am excited to see what possibilities we have with them in the future.”

The Soldiers of Hamilton’s Own worked with the new

PIM for approximately a month before first firing the system on Dec. 5. The month of training was needed for the crews to become and proficient with the new equipment.

“It is crucial, absolutely crucial training,” Doriot said. “You can’t get better by not training. You have to train to get more fluid.”



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

A new M109A7 Paladin howitzer fires an artillery round from a Fort Riley range during a test session of field equipment by Soldiers from Battery D, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division Dec. 6.

HONORS Continued from page 1

a command post tent on the back of the truck along with their advanced field artillery tactical data system. The last event included four regular fire missions and one emergency. The events were graded on time and accuracy.

For the FDC, proficiency in a team’s crew tasks was the key to winning, said Capt. Daniel Faughnan, battalion fire direction officer.

There were also 18 Howitzer gun sections who competed in their respective version of the event.

The gun sections’ competitive events involved weapons assembly and disassembly, including the M-4 carbine, Mk 19 grenade launcher and the M2 .50 caliber machine gun, as well as the assembly and disassembly of the breech of their Paladin. Their field exercise activities included emplacing their gun at the firing point and conducting four regular fire missions and one emergency.

The gun crew competition also proved to be very close.

“I think what put us over was the ruck march,” said Staff Sgt. German Ramirez, section chief of Cobra

13, the crew that won the Top Gun portion of the competition. “We came in at 2 hours and 40 minutes, and the next closest one was 2 hours and 50 minutes.”

Winning the competition was a big deal for the gun section.

“It’s a big boost of confidence,” Ramirez said. “We put in a lot of hard work and a lot of time into

trying to win Top Gun and it showed up at the end with us winning.”

The winners received an Army commendation medal and a red muzzle cover signifying them as the Top Gun in the battalion for the gun crew, with the FDC section receiving a red guidon to represent their achievement.



Capt. Orlando Howard | 2ND ABCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division conducted a ‘Top Gun/Top Fire Direction Center’ competition, Nov. 19 to 23, to determine the best artillery gun crew and fire direction center in the battalion.

Soldiers receive college credit through Hazardous Waste Worker training

By Kalene Lozick
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Twenty-four service members and dependents are working their way through a Hazardous Waste Worker training through Barton Community College at Fort Riley.

The college has three annual, two-week-long courses on Hazardous Waste Worker training for Soldiers of Fort Riley who are looking to gain college credit at no cost.

“This class started Nov. 27,” said James Henderson, instructor of Hazardous Materials and Emergency Services. “We start off with a day and a half of just general awareness. That’s followed by 3 1/2 days of concentrating only on hazardous materials. After those 3 1/2 days of hazardous materials, they will have a final exam on that. They are required to get at least an 80 percent.”

Soldiers receive classroom training initially before their instruction becomes blended. During the second week, Soldiers start their hands-on training.

“The second week they’ll go into 40 hours of Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response,” Henderson said. “So in the HAZWOPER... we talk about hazards of a work site, we teach them how to build a health and safety plan. Then based off that health and safety plan — they’re building on that (plan) all week long — I give them a scenario and we build a hazardous waste site here at our training facility. On (the final) Friday, they spend that day mitigating the hazardous waste site.”

Staff Sgt. Travis Coleman, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, said the training is awesome because of his job at Fort Riley.

“Right now my job on Fort Riley is the HHC Company Safety NCO (noncommissioned officer) as well as the 3-1 battalion safety NCO,” Coleman said. “So this is not only helping my job in the military, but it is going towards my degree as well. We get five college credits so that is helping my degree in emergency management.”

The program at Barton Community College began with the school’s former dean who heard a request to train transitioning Soldiers.

“Our former dean worked with a group called the National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education, these are a non-profit,” Henderson said. “What they did was provide people during disasters. They said it would be great if we already had people who were already trained so we don’t have to train someone every time we respond to a disaster. Since our dean was working with these guys, they said we should talk to the National Institute of Environmental Health and Sciences and see if they will provide funding for us to train military people who are transitioning. When they transition out they’re going to be all over the United States, which is going to build our capacity to respond to a disaster.”

With a classroom size of 24, he said the class he was teaching Nov. 27 to Dec. 8 had 23 active service members and one spouse. He said most of them will begin to transition out of the Army within the next 18 months.

“We actually have one Soldier that has been through some of the training before and he found out the different certification he would get from this training,” he said. “They walk away with two certifications and an OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) training card. So he wanted that because the objective is to respond to disasters but to have them trained to they’re more employable. About 60 percent of the Soldiers here will transition out of the Military over the next 18 months.”

According to bartonsafety.org, the Soldiers can receive one of two certifications depending on the program choice. The first is a Specialist in Safety and Health and the second is the Certified Safety and Health.

Henderson said the Soldiers learn much throughout the two week course.

“They go from electrical to flammable liquids to how to conduct a spray finishing operation with flammable liquids,” he said. “They learn how to safely conduct dipping and coding operations with flammable and combustible materials. They learn how to handle compressed gases. That’s all in the first week.”

He said the programs main objective is to give the Soldiers a skill to put on their resume.

“I highly recommend it to a lot of people if they’re going to be around the chemicals and all the hazards they have with being in the Military,” Coleman said. “The instructors are also amazing. They teach us a lot of information in a matter of two weeks so we really have to pay attention.”

For more information about the Hazardous Waste Worker training course call Barton Community College Grandview Plaza at 785-238-8550. Barton Community College also offers Fort Riley Soldiers other programs and training services. For more information call 785-784-6606.



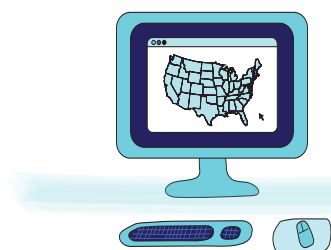
SHELAH COLEMAN | BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Fort Riley Soldiers suit up during the Hazardous Waste Worker training course mitigation lessons at a hazardous site Dec. 8. Barton Community College offers free training to Soldiers interested in receiving five college credits, two certificates and an Occupational Safety and Health Administration card.

What to Do with Used Sharps

Sharps refer to: needles, syringes, lancets, auto injectors, including epinephrine and insulin pens, infusion sets, and connection needles/sets

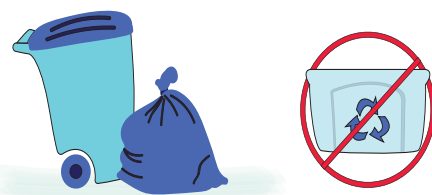
Check www.SafeNeedleDisposal.org for local guidance on sharps disposal.



Put used sharps in a strong, plastic container.



Put the plastic container in the household trash—don’t recycle!



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Fort Riley December retirements

Nineteen military members were recognized for their service during the monthly Fort Riley Retirement Ceremony Dec. 6.



Col. James Erbach	28 years of service
Maj. Cody Button	24 years of service
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Hughes	20 years of service
Command Sgt. Maj. Dwight Evans Jr.	28 years of service
1st Sgt. Robert Greeley Jr.	22 years of service
1st Sgt. Richard Maltby	25 years of service
1st Sgt. Ronald Townsend	29 years of service
1st Sgt. David Murph	28 years of service
1st Sgt. Earle Allen III	22 years of service
Master Sgt. Timothy Crosby	23 years of service
Master Sgt. Sonja Manning	22 years of service
Master Sgt. Bruce Bezdek	29 years of service
Master Sgt. Ramon Fernandez, Jr.	24 years of service
Sgt. First Class Jonathan Thompson	20 years of service
Sgt. First Class Michael Steede	25 years of service
Staff Sgt. Robert Tanoury	20 years of service
Staff Sgt. Adam Benson	20 years of service
Staff Sgt. Roberto Sanchezantana	20 years of service
Staff Sgt. Ronterron Carter	20 years of service

From the men and women of Fort Riley – thank you for your service.

Commissary donates \$3,000 worth of gift cards to help Soldiers in need

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

Fort Riley Chaplain Services, an organization within Religious Support Services, was presented with 43 Defense Commissary Agency gift cards worth \$50 each from the Commissary Dec. 7.

This is the first portion of \$3,000 in gift cards donated to the organization. The gift cards will be distributed to Soldiers and families in need this holiday season.

According to William Rasco, Fort Riley Commissary store director, the money used to purchase the gift cards came from accrual money from promotions they over the past year from the sale of Nabisco products.

"It's a means of Nabisco, our business partner, to give back to the community," Rasco said. "We are going to give \$2,150 of the \$3,000 today. We got another \$850 to come at a later day that will be given as soon as we get them. It's going to be a total of \$3,000."

Rasco said it was ultimately the Commissary's decision to let Chaplain Services determine which Soldiers best qualify to receive these gift cards.

"We are kind of the middle man on this deal," he said. "(Chaplain Services) have a really sound system. They would know if the individual is struggling for whatever reason.

We trust these guys. You couldn't trust anybody any better to do a program of this nature."

Chaplain Services will put the gift cards toward Operation Helping Hands, an annual event put on by the Religious Support Office that distributes Commissary vouchers during the holiday season.

The \$3,000 will help fund the \$5,850 needed for the program, said Sgt. 1st Class Betty Brime, senior religious affairs non-commissioned officer, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Riley.

Operation Helping Hands initially started before Thanksgiving to help families in need prepare for a holiday meal, but Chap. (Maj.) Michael Frailey, installation chaplain resource manager,

Fort Riley garrison, said there is still a need for financial help.

"We still have a list of Soldiers," Frailey said. "We had about 316 applications and we only gave out (gift cards to) 234 (applicants). So we will take that list and continue on giving."

Religious staff members said the program benefits Soldiers and families in Fort Riley because it makes them feel cared for and supported.

"It's support for them," Brime said. "That's less stress they have to worry about during the holidays providing meals for their families."



Post Exchange Black Friday sales up three percent, brings increase returns for Fort Riley community



Courtesy Photo

A patron of the Fort Riley Main Exchange pulls a feather off a turkey during Black Friday event Nov. 24. Each feather pulled reveal mystery deal to be used at the Exchange. This year, the PX experienced a 3 percent rise in sales on Black Friday and a 10 percent rise in sales during Thanksgiving weekend.

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

The Fort Riley Main Post Exchange experienced a 3 percent increase in sales on Black Friday and a 10 percent increase in overall sales during Thanksgiving weekend.

There were several post specific deals that helped boost sales, but according to Maria Berios Borges, Fort Riley Main Post Exchange store manager, it was the Exchange-wide door buster deals that got people buying, specifically the smart 55-inch flat screen TV that sold for \$399. The normal price for the TV was about \$1,000.

"It's a price that nobody could beat," Borges said. "The TVs we sold out at about 2 o'clock because we had 200 of those."

Robin Ayling, Army and Air Force Exchange Services general manager of Fort Riley and McConnell Air Force Base Exchanges, sold about half of those TVs that morning.

"I personally sold 119 of them because I pushed them," Ayling said. "But overall, this was probably the best Black Friday as far as customer interaction and satisfaction.

Complaints were at the minimum, I mean less than one percent that came in the store, which was really nice."

There were several in-house deals that drew crowds, such as gift basket giveaways valued between \$55 to \$100 and a chance to pull feathers that contained deals from a turkey. However, it was one specific hype surrounding the event that began days before and had people lining up to shop by 4 a.m. Black Friday, said Borges.

"We had a balloon drop right at 6 a.m.," Borges said. "That's where we had discounts inside the balloons and people were waiting for that. We had over 300 (balloons) and it was on the whole front of the store and at the entrance ... We put that there probably two days before Black Friday. That created a lot of curiosity and we told them what it was and when it was going to happen."

This is the first year the Exchange did not open their doors for Black Friday until 6 a.m., Ayling said.

"This was the first time we opened that late on Black Friday," she said. "Previously we opened at 4 a.m., but

with the trends of shopping, a lot of our shopping is done online these days. There was no reason to open at 4 a.m."

The increase in sales means more monetary returns for the Fort Riley community in terms of dividends for next year. Areas these funds will go to are meant to enrich the lives Soldiers and their families.

"A portion of our profits go back-directly back-to the base every year," Ayling said. "Last year we gave \$1.16 million back to Fort Riley and those dividends are used for quality of life for the Soldiers and their families."

Borges echoed Ayling's statement and listed a few places that typically benefit from the Exchange dividends.

"It all goes back to the libraries, the child development centers, everything that has to do with morale and recreation of the troops and their families," she said. "We are here to make money for them. I think it's the biggest thing that I see still a lot of troops don't understand that this (is) not money that is going into somebody else's pocket, it's going into their community."

TRAFFIC REPORT

ACCESS CONTROL POINT HOURS

Those with a valid military ID card, or who 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 from 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 landfill will still be possible during the repairs.

HENRY DRIVE BRIDGE

The bridge on Henry Drive over the Kansas River is reduced to one lane from 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. through Dec. 15. Traffic will be controlled at both ends of the bridge by signage and temporary traffic lights. Compliance with all construction traffic control signs is mandatory during this period. Traffic during the hours of 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. will be unrestricted.

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RILEY ROUNDTABLE

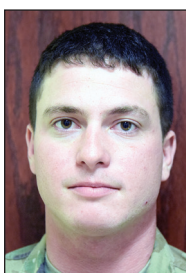
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BARRINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Deputy to the commander, Army Field Support Battalion Fort Riley



"I believe all children should be able to receive presents for the holidays."

SPC. ZACHARY PYLE
MYRTLE POINT, OREGON

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



"We need to give back to our community and to help those in need during the holidays."

SGT. MAJ. MICHAEL UDELL
ISSAQUAH, WASHINGTON

1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



"It is important to give back anytime you can."

2ND LT. MARY BERRY
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY

1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



"To give back to families who are less fortunate and to support our community."

SGT. REBECCA WAYNICK
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

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

SAFETY CORNER

Workplace safety during holidays

By Garrison Safety Office

Celebrating the holidays is normally fun, but there are safety considerations when it comes to hanging decorations and lights, serving food or dealing with workplace stress. This is a triple whammy and we'll look at each area separately.

DECORATIONS

Lack of planning prior to decorating for the holidays can present several challenges that could lead to a disaster if proper control measures aren't taken. Ask yourself: What decorations are we hanging, where are we hanging them, what special equipment do I need and are lights included in the decorations?

Hanging decorations need to be high enough off the walking surface to provide clearance for walking. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration uses a minimum height for suspended objects in routes intended to lead from a building as 6 feet 8 inches. This rule will allow most people to walk under the decoration without striking their head. Also, all decorations should be firmly attached so they do not fall and strike someone.

Make sure when you are hanging the decoration you have good footing. Raised platforms without rails presents a hazard especially if you lose situational awareness. Use ladders or step stool instead of a chair. Ladders present significant safety hazards when used incorrectly.

POWERING DECORATIONS

Prior to adding lights ensure sufficient power is available. Also, make sure lights are used in the proper locations — outdoor lights for outdoors and indoor lights for indoors. Plug lights directly into the wall or use a portable power tap or surge protector, and ensure the lights are turned off or unplugged when not attended. The Garrison Safety Office has pamphlets on home safety, most of the safety tips in the home safety pamphlet can be applied at work and help reduce the probability or severity of an incident or accident.

FOOD SAFETY

Good food handling practices can reduce the chances of contracting a food-borne illness. Temperature is one of the keys to reducing the possibility of growing organisms or spoilage. The length of time foods sit in a serving line should be monitored closely. If an item is cooked ensure it was cooked to proper temperature prior to serving. Chilled or frozen items should remain in the refrigerator as long as possible and the time period they sit out without refrigeration should be limited. Use of separate utensils for each item and immediate cleanup of spilled items will help reduce cross contamination. A good practice is to have certified food handlers prepare and serve the food. Check with Public Health on the certification of food handlers.

WORKPLACE STRESS

Stress can adversely affect workplace safety. Holidays from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day are usually perceived to be periods of joy but are also times of high workplace stress that can cause employees to lose situational awareness, leading to an incident or accident. This year, in particular, employment changes and uncertain budgetary challenges can add to an employee's worry or frustration. Paying attention to potential causes of accidents, and the control measures in place to prevent them, will help reduce the chances for accidents.

ADJUST YOUR SCHEDULE

Offices can be shorthanded because some workers have "use or lose" leave time available. If there is a critical meeting that must be covered make sure that requirement is communicated so fellow workers can make adjustments and critical tasks can be covered. Good communication with the attendee and coordination with the meeting organizer can ensure meetings are covered when teammates are on leave. Supervisors should set reasonable goals in what they expect to be accomplished during the holidays. Preparing, planning and communicating will reduce the probability of an accident and reduce stress.

For more information about holiday planning contact the USAG, Safety Office, 785-240-0647.

RECYCLING CENTER

Sharp instruments can be dangerous to recycle center staff

By Chris Otto
By Source

Let's get to the point; sharps can be dangerous to people working at the Fort Riley Recycle Center.

I am not talking about the Army SHARP Training, but needles, syringes, epinephrine pens, insulin pens and other medical sharp objects. While it has not happened recently, recycle center staff have been stabbed by syringe needles that were placed in a recycling bin. The last time this happened, the needle even went through a safety glove and poked the employee in the hand. When this happens, the person who was stuck by the sharp has to undergo bloodborne pathogen testing and monitoring to

ensure they do not get sick from the exposure.

The pharmacy at Irwin Army Community Hospital advises patients with sharps to dispose of them by placing sharps in a strong plastic container. The best option would be to purchase sharps containers that come pre-labeled and with tight fitting lids. These containers can be purchased at many pharmacies and department stores.

If a designated sharps container is not available, the IACH Pharmacy advises using a container like a bleach or laundry detergent bottle, not soft plastic like milk jugs, soda or water bottles.

Once the container is three-fourths full, it should be sealed with strong tape like duct tape, labeled with "Sharps" and

"Biohazard," then put in the trash for disposal.

This guidance is good way to dispose of sharps at home; however, it is important to ensure the sharps filled bottle goes in the trash and not the recycling bin. The Fort Riley Department of Public Health advises notifying the sanitation workers collecting the trash to ensure they send the bottle to a landfill instead of a recycling center.

For more information, please visit www.safeneedledisposal.org and click on Kansas.

When materials like plastic bottles make it to the Fort Riley Recycle Center, the materials are sorted with an optical sorting machine that segregates most of the materials. During one of the first phases of the sorting process, materials are flattened

by a large drum. That will sometimes break open plastic containers. Plastic bottles are often removed by hand after other materials are sorted out — especially heavy bottles that can't be sorted with the air jets that blow empty bottles into the correct bin. If sharps are sent through the sorter inside a bottle, there is a good chance for that bottle to break open and to have the sharps exposed where they could stick the recycle center staff.

Please ensure any needles you use for medical reasons do not cause a medical emergency for others on post. By following the disposal guidelines listed above and not sending sharps containers to the recycle center, you are helping to keep others safe on Fort Riley.

Common automobile fraud schemes and how to avoid them

By the Fort Riley Legal Assistance Office

Once they've entered the Army, many Soldiers find themselves with both a new, fairly substantial bi-weekly income and the need for a new set of wheels. Although a vehicle is not required of Soldiers, it is a necessity given the broad area of land that many Army posts and their neighboring cities encompass. Fort Riley is no exception.

Knowing that Soldiers have a steady stream of income and need for vehicles, car dealerships of all kinds love to have Soldiers as customers.

While many car dealers are honest, there is a significant number of dealers who may utilize predatory sales tactics.

Many Soldiers are young and inexperienced buying vehicles. This makes them the perfect target for those car dealers who are willing to push past what are honest and acceptable business practices. The following information is intended to level the playing field and allow Soldiers to become familiar with these tactics so that they can avoid them. With this knowledge they can make better decisions when buying a vehicle and avoid unwanted financial problems.

Here are some common schemes and tips for how to avoid them:

THE YO-YO

In this scenario, the consumer signs a credit contract, is given a temporary registration, temporary license plates, and thinks the transaction is complete because the salesman or finance manager told them it is approved. The dealer then tells the consumer they are only waiting for permanent DMV

documents. Predictively, the consumer anticipates making payments in accordance with the originally agreed upon sales contract.

However, the dealer does not notify the DMV of the sale. Instead, days or weeks later, the dealer informs the consumer that the first credit transaction is canceled and the consumer must either return the car or sign a new credit contract on different terms. Sometimes the consumer ends up with a different car, the same car on different terms or no car at all.

The basic fraud in a yo-yo sale is making the consumer think the sale was a done deal, while at the same time the dealer retains the ability to call off the sale, seize the car and sell it to another purchaser. To do so, the dealer will deceive the consumer by making them think the sale is a done deal by "signing the title over" at the time of the sale.

However, what the dealer is really doing is waiting to see if they can sell the terms of the sale to a third party financial institution. If they fail to do so they will seek to terminate the agreed upon terms and renegotiate or cancel rather than "eat" the original credit terms. If the dealer does not use a conditional sales contract during the initial agreement with the consumer, they are forced to accept the terms as agreed to at the time of the sale and finance the transaction themselves.

Although some of the legal theories involving this type of sale can be complex, the bottom line is the dealer is not allowed to have it both ways and must be straightforward with the consumer about the credit terms at the original point of sale.

ODOMETER VIOLATIONS

Tampering with or changing the odometer in order to sell a car is clearly a violation of the Odometer Act. However, this legislation encompasses other bad acts that might not be as obvious. It does not merely require an accurate disclosure of how many miles the car has been driven on the actual odometer. It further mandates the odometer mileage to be disclosed on the title document being used to assign ownership of the car. Thus, all used car sales should have the odometer mileage on the title document.

PRIOR-WRECK VEHICLES

Vehicles damaged as the result of a car accident, flood or fire damage must have that damage disclosed at the time of the sale. Selling prior wrecks without proper disclosure is a huge problem within the industry and well-known insurance companies have admitted to having established practices of putting prior wrecks back into the marketplace. For this reason, a title history should always be considered before purchasing a vehicle.

Nevertheless, a title history will not always disclose that a car was salvaged due to inaccurate record keeping and past disclosure violations. When buying a used car, go to www.vehiclehistory.gov to get a true history of the vehicle. This website contains a national database of vehicle histories. From this site, the consumer can choose a low-cost service provider to get data and history on the car they are considering purchasing.

When checking the title history, it is also important to see if the car has been sold multiple times from the same dealer. This could be an indication the car was returned due to repeated breakdowns stemming from a prior wreck.

USED AS NEW SALES

Similar to the prior-wreck scheme, selling a used car as new is both fraudulent and related to financing. A dealer may misrepresent whether a car is new or used because more money can be made on the sale of a new car and the loan will be easier to finance with a third party financial institution. Under federal law, any car with more miles on it than necessary to move among the car lot or road testing is not a new car. Under Kansas state law, a "new motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle which has never been titled or registered and has not been substantially driven or operated. Therefore, the mileage is always the starting point to determine whether the car can even qualify as new. Further, the title and registration history is also relevant in making a new or used determination.

BAIT AND SWITCH

The bait and switch sales tactic can appear in many different variations during the sale of a car. The yo-yo scheme mentioned above is a version of the bait and switch, but the more traditional bait and switch tactic still occurs and is a violation of Kansas state law. It occurs when a consumer responds to an advertisement within a given time frame and does not receive the terms shown in the advertisement.

See VEHICLE, page 8

The next USAG Resilience Day Off is

Dec.

22

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Workshop helps Soldiers, families cope

By Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The American Red Cross held a free Reconnection Workshop Dec. 5 at the Colyer Forsyth Neighborhood Center to help Soldiers and families find new ways to connect with themselves and others.

The Reconnection Workshops encompass six modules. The module taught during the Dec. 5 session was Exploring Stress and Trauma. Earlier in the day, the Red Cross teamed up with USO Fort Riley to teach a module on clear communication.

"Exploring Stress and Trauma is primarily aimed at Soldiers and family members who are in a transitioning, either returning from deployment or someone who is transitioning out of the military, on coping skills and strengths that they already have inside themselves they may not even be aware of,"

said Lisa Peterson, Red Cross volunteer.

The confidential workshop led participants through understanding different types of stress the causes and their personal reactions to them, as well as methods of response. Participants shared stories of their own experiences and the outcomes after Peterson led them through a brief description of each topic.

"A big part of this program that makes it so good is coming together as individuals and sharing their experience in going through these things," she said.

For the Fort Riley audience, the course was tailored to reintegrating Soldiers into their families after being separated for extended periods of time such as during a deployment and to assist Soldiers transitioning from the service into civilian life.

"(This class is) to support our military, to support the

resiliency of spouses," Peterson said. "There's just challenges inherent with military life and (we are trying to help with the) stresses from transitioning from military to civilian. It's an entirely different culture ... The focus is only integrating back home and into civilian life."

Mitzy Deaguilera, Red Cross Department of Engagement lead, said understanding stress and having the skills to manage it are important, especially at Fort Riley where frequent deployments and training exercises can take a toll on families.

"I'm a military spouse," she said. "My husband has been active duty for 26 years and I worked here with the Army Team Building Program and I think this is another resource for the community because we struggle a lot."

She said these skills can help a Soldier returning to their family find their place

in day-to-day life and help their spouse fall back into the rhythm of having them by their side after months of managing affairs in their own.

This session was the first time the Exploring Stress and Trauma module was held at Fort Riley, but Rebecca Estrella, regional programs specialist for the American Red Cross, said she hopes to see more of them in the future, as well as workshops for other modules.

"We need to have more Reconnection Workshops," she said. "We need to change to conversation, the taboo, on stress, depression and trauma. Let's not be scared using those words, let's acknowledge it and move forward."

She added any organization at Fort Riley could schedule a workshop, they only need to contact her to get things set up.

To learn more about Reconnection Workshops, call 785-239-1887.

Community luncheon maintains positive military relations

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

The Military Relations Committee Luncheon brought more than 100 Fort Riley, Junction City, Kansas, and Manhattan, Kansas, community members together to maintain current community relations and establish new ones in Manhattan Dec. 6.

"This is a great way for people from the Manhattan community and the folks from Fort Riley to get together to meet and network to make some community out of the area," said Janet Nichols, military community liaison, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce. "We have ten MRC Luncheons a year. Most of them are the first Wednesday of the month."

Rich Jankovich, Military Relations Committee chair member, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, said events like the MRC Luncheon are crucial for each community because of the opportunity to interact with the Soldiers.

"The critical element is to have guest speakers usually from Fort Riley or related to the military coming in so we get a better understanding on their particular expertise or command is about," he said. "Today is a perfect example with Col. (John) Lawrence (Fort Riley garrison commander) talking about garrison and ... how our community is helping in supporting his mission."

Guest speakers are a great way to build partnerships, Jankovich said.

"This is a great way to bind our community with Fort Riley even better and to give a greater understanding on what everyone is going through," he said.

During his presentation, Lawrence spoke for about what Fort Riley had accomplished and will accomplish in the coming year.

"What you will see is everything focused on the Army's No. 1, priority readiness," he said. "The first thing we looked at was infrastructure."

During his brief, he expanded on the \$37.7 million installation wide Energy Saver Performance contract.


"Basically what it is, is contractors come in and replace lighting, heating, air conditioning units to save energy," Lawrence said. "That contract is then paid for by that savings of money, so nothing comes out of the tax payer's dollars, all the risk is on those contractors who signed the contract ... The greatest thing about this \$37.7 million is 50 percent of that business is going back to local businesses and the Flint Hills Region, so that is a huge factor there."

Lawrence also gave an example of a mutual aid agreement between Military Police and local law enforcement agencies, which could help further the partnerships between Fort Riley and the two cities.

"Over 112,000 people entered Fort Riley through the Access Control this past year," he said. "With that we had, over 1,000 people who did not meet that criteria. Most of those individuals had warrants out for their arrests, so we worked with local authorities to actually exercise the warrant and get them out."


Partnerships are exercised to maintain community bonds because we all realize that relationships matter, Lawrence said.

"We are really happy that Fort Riley really seems to enjoy participating and we have a lot of support from them," Nichols said.



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Excellence through Partnership

Engineering Systems Branch builds productivity

By Kalene Lozick
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Editor's note: This is the second part of a two-part series on the Business Operations/Integration Division of the Directorate of Public Works.

Behind the scenes at the Engineering Systems Branch, Business Operation Division — Directorate of Public Works, a team of industrial engineers manage computer systems used to execute maintenance requests.

Managing and updating maintenance request forms is a complex job. The system they use to handle these forms is known as the General Fund Enterprise Business System.

Julie Poyser, chief of Business Operations and Integration Division — DPW, and Deb Porter, chief and industrial engineer of Engineering Systems Branch — DPW, explained the interconnected web of ESB was developed by the Army and was brought to Fort Riley in 2010 with ESB serving

"Our Engineering System branch (at Fort Riley) was one of two installations to actually develop the DART (DPW Analyses Research Tool) system," Poyser said.

The second installation to help pilot the program was Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The DART system is used to manage requests from across the installation, more than 25,000, she said.

"Once a service request is entered in GFEBS, the operations and maintenance supervisory team can easily retrieve information about the order and assign it to technicians with the appropriate skillset and availability," Poyser said. "The DART system basically extracts all of the service request data entered into GFEBS — work-center details, employee details, order history, supply procurement information, etcetera and creates meaningful reports that the supervisory team of the Operations and Maintenance Division can use to manage their workload. A shop supervisor can look at their order backlog and see, for example, if they have 60 service requests and 10 of them are assigned to one technician and five are assigned to another technician. They can also see how old requests are in order to triage their backlog."

Staff use GFEBS to capture project costs and the costs for the services, she said.

"(That could be) in-house personnel that need to report

the cost of time, equipment and materials used on a project or a contractor who needs to report their costs or a project manager who needs to report their design and inspection costs," Poyser said. "All costs must be settled back to the service they support, and that comes with a considerable systems requirement."

The project cost data collected through GFEBS is managed Engineering Systems Branch by in-house programmers.

"We work together a lot with program analysts," Porter said. "We work together so that everything that needs to be captured gets captured, (things are) correctly priced and coded."

The partnership adds to the support factor within Engineering Systems Branch.

"This is the support part, we do a lot to just keep people going but there is also a lot that goes into our coordination with the analyst in making sure the information gathered is correct," Porter said. "And so that everyone is doing their part to update their information."

The project cost is crucial due to the approval limits Porter and Poyser's team cannot surpass, Poyser said.

"All of our projects have approval limits that we cannot exceed," she said. "There's statutory limits, so it's extremely important that we capture our costs correctly."

The price for smaller service order projects are \$2,500, while larger projects cannot exceed \$1 million and no newly constructed buildings, she said.

"For a service order, the limit is \$2,500 for small main-

tenance and repair," Poyser said. "There are larger projects and those have the potential to break the 'new work limit.' So locally we can only construct things that are basically less than \$1 million. If you add up all the contract costs, any of the other labor or materials that go towards that project we can't for new work exceed that. So it's important that we capture costs and track so we aren't breaking approval authority and laws."

The service orders are categorized in three priorities. Each priority has their own competition timeline.

"Priority one is an emergency like a gas leak or sewer leak — the life, health and safety stuff," she said. "Typically this is something that needs to be immediately responded to within a day."

Priority one is radioed out to a dispatch in the shop from the service desk, Poyser said.

"Priority two is something that has a little less importance than priority one," she said. "Say it is summer and a room in the whole building is having HVAC problems. Say if it was a whole building and it was summer and the whole building was 90 degrees, we would dispatch some immediately as priority one. Must be responded to within a week."

The third priority is less critical with a crack in the wall, not a big foundational issue just a settling problem, Poyser said. The shop personnel will have 30 days to complete.

The priority lists help Porter and her team determine the facility inspections conducted quarterly.

"Installation Status Reporting is another big portion of what we do," Porter said. "Every quarter our director is required to give a briefing to the garrison commander reviewing performance of each service. When I say service I am talking about roads, custodial, master planning, facilities maintenance, electrical, water, waste water, environmental, etcetera. There are a lot of services that DPW is responsible for."

The ISR-Infrastructure is important to DPW and also higher levels with Headquarters, Poyser said.

"The program utilizes a unique inspection booklet for each type of facility that we (Fort Riley) have," she said. "These standards booklets are composed of different components that need to be rated to assess the quality of facilities. Ultimately, these repair cost estimates become a green, amber, red, black rating."

Poyser said it helps drive prioritization of projects, as well as identifying facility maintenance blind spots around the installation.


The ISR-I also validate the need for some facility maintenance request, Poyser said. They are able to use the inspections to present their requests to the Fort Riley's garrison commander.

"This is also one of the ways the installation competes for centralized funding and is one tool the Army leverages to justify infrastructure funding requirements to Congress," she said.

Porter said her team of three provides information technology support to more than 300 users.




Col. John Lawrence, Fort Riley garrison commander, speaks to members of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, Junction City Chamber of Commerce and the civilian workforce at Fort Riley during the Military Relations Committee Luncheon Dec. 6.




Merry Christmas!

Wishing safe travels to you and your family this holiday season and always.



Laura Fisher
Store Manager



Tonya Fisher
Assistant Manager

T.O. Haas

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Register at Center Court

Remote combat vehicles send hits harder than Abrams tanks

By David Vergun
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

LIVONIA, Mich. — Within five years, the Army would like to start testing remote combat vehicle prototypes, known as RCVs, which are unmanned, as light and as fast as a Stryker, but provide the same level of firepower as an M-1 Abrams tank, said Maj. Alan L. Stephens.

Stephens, an Acquisition Corps officer at the Mounted Requirements Division of the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence, spoke at the Future Ground Combat Vehicles Summit here Nov. 30.

While the holy grail is the Next Generation Combat Vehicle, he said the Army thinks it can more quickly field a limited number of RCVs, the results of that testing could help inform the requirements for the NGCV, which is slated for fielding in 2035.

Instead of a traditional program of record, Stephens said the plan is to buy a limited quantity of RCVs or components that could be used for RCVs, then let Soldiers put them through their grueling paces at the combat training centers and various test sites and proving grounds.

The analysis that results from that and Soldier feedback would then be used to inform requirements for the RCV and later on for the NGCV, he said.

A capability development document for the RCV could be written as soon as 2022, he added.

RCV ADVANTAGES

RCVs will have a number of advantages over the Abrams, said Stephens, who has a background as a systems engineer.

For one, the RCV will be unmanned. That means in a manned-unmanned configuration, the unmanned variants could go ahead of the manned to scout out the area, navigate through the most dangerous sectors of the battlefield and engage the enemy, while the manned vehicle would follow, he said.

The current thinking for test configuration, he said, is two unmanned for every manned RCV, with the manned variant controlling the other two. But that ratio of 1:2 could change once testing commences and bugs are worked out. Eventually, he said, a 1:4 ratio could be likely.

Additionally, he said, the term "unmanned" implies varying levels of autonomy. At the lowest level, for instance, a vehicle might have no personnel inside, but would be controlled by Soldiers through a tethered radio link. At the highest level, a vehicle might be fully autonomous, requiring artificial intelligence and neural networking -- something not yet achievable, but clearly on the horizon.

Another advantage with RCV over Abrams is it will be lighter and more maneuverable. That means, Stephens said, it will be faster and could be airlifted, giving the brigade combat team commander and the combatant commander greater options in the battlespace.

Since RCVs will be unmanned, that frees up a lot of space for direct and indirect fires capability, he said, along with a full suite of sensors and counter-unmanned aerial vehicle packages. An example of an indirect fire system, he said, is the 81mm mortar. Direct fire would be what an Abrams' main gun can deliver.

Stephens said there's even discussions of teaming UAVs with the RCVs to provide over-the-horizon surveillance and reconnaissance.

The modular, open-systems architecture design would by necessity include cyber protection and anti-jamming equipment, Stephens said.

Daniel McCormick, deputy joint program executive officer for Chemical and Biological Defense, said he's excited about RCVs and other robotics vehicles, given the chemical, biological and radiological threats that are proliferating around the world, particularly on the Korean peninsula and in the Middle East.

Existing sensors, like infrared ones, could double-down to not just detect the enemy's

signature and dust but also the signature from biological and chemical weapons, he said.

Unmanned vehicles would also afford force protection and increased standoff distance, he said, meaning staying out of reach of enemy fire.

"We are near reaching parity with nearer competitors on the battlefield," Stephens concluded, "so there's goodness in the RCV program."

However, he added, a lot of developmental work still remains to be done to make lethality the same as the Abrams while lightening the platform so it's more maneuverable.

"We're going to push the limit to get to initial requirement, but we don't want over-requirements," he said.

Stephens noted there are three Army commands involved with the RCV program, including the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center; the Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center; and the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center.

He called on industry to help make the RCV a reality, and also suggested that testing could be conducted on surrogate vehicles, like the M-113 armored personnel carrier, that the Army would provide.

READY ARMY

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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.

The app is not currently approved for government mobile devices.

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VEHICLE Continued from page 5

It is important to locate and keep the ad the consumer is responding to.

This tactic may also appear on the price of a trade-in vehicle. Lowballing happens when the sale appears to be finalized and the dealer suddenly "realizes" the trade-in was overvalued and needs more money to close the deal. It also may come in the form of a salesman appearing to finalize a sale, but then turns over the consumer to the so-called finance manager. These finance managers are, like the car lot salesman, trained in sales tactics and intend to sell additional financial products with the car. Their techniques are designed to sell these unnecessary finance-related products whether the consumer asks for them or not. If the consumer is not offered a contract on the terms agreed with the car lot salesman before speaking with the finance

manager, then a bait and switch has occurred.

DISCLOSURE OF CREDIT TERMS

Many consumers are not familiar with or understand their rights when it comes to the Truth in Lending Act. The TILA is used to credit shop among dealers, subjecting the financial industry to market forces before credit transactions are agreed to. In theory, a knowledgeable buyer with truthful information will shop for the best credit terms available. This, in turn, incentivizes car dealers to provide the best possible credit terms in order to stay competitive with other dealers. Therefore, if a car salesman or dealer does not allow the consumer to leave the lot with the terms of credit in hand or does not provide a written copy of the offer,

they have violated the TILA. Many salesman will pressure the consumer to complete the sale on the same day.

However, it is in the consumer's best interest to go to multiple dealerships and find the best possible credit terms available.

For Soldiers, the best possible course of action would be to bring the TILA form to the Legal Assistance Office or Army Community Service finance specialist so they can review the contract and advise the Soldier.

Finally, if Soldiers fall victim to these predatory practices, they should file a complaint with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint.

When completing the complaint form, it is important the Soldier indicate they are a service member. The CFPB acts on complaints and also collects and uses this data to specifically

aid military members and their families. In fact the CFPB has received over 14,100 complaints since 2011 and has provided millions of dollars in relief.

If you believe you or one of your Soldiers has been the victim of any of these deceptive sales tactics, come speak to an attorney at the Fort Riley Legal Assistance Office. Although serious cases of fraud will likely be referred out to a civilian attorney that specializes in that specific area of the law, the Legal Assistance Office will be able to sort through your situation and help you determine whether a violation has occurred, contact the dealer on your behalf or help determine what your course of action should be to ultimately resolve the issue.

For more information call the legal assistance line at Fort Riley's Staff Judge Advocate's office, 785-239-3117.

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FORT RILEY CHILDCARE PROVIDER HIRING EVENT

Tuesday, January 9 | 9am-2pm
CYS Parent Central
(6620 Normandy Drive, Fort Riley)

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- Hardcopy federal resume with 3 professional references.
- High school diploma/GED or college transcripts
- Social Security card and birth certificate/passport
- Wear appropriate interview attire; interviews will be conducted during this event.
- Applicants are encouraged to apply early at www.USAJOB8.gov

Search Keyword: "NAP"; Location: "Fort Riley" or in person at the hiring event!

Fort Riley Child and Youth Services offers childcare discounts for employees and access to Fort Riley Family and MWR programs!

All applicants selected for these positions will be subject to local and federal background investigations, prior to beginning their Federal Employment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 785-239-2325

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SERENITY LOYD | MILITARY SPOUSE



Konnor Loyd, 7, son of Sgt. Michael Loyd, Troop B, 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, looks at the new toy he received during the Project North Pole event Dec. 9 at the Warrior Transition Battalion Clamshell.

Trip to the North Pole

American Legion-led Project North Pole provides more than 800 free toys to kids of military families

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

“It kind of keeps everyone’s mind off daddy being gone right now,” said Serenity Loyd, wife of Sgt. Michael Loyd, Troop B, 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, as she looked at her children.

Loyd is from one of the many Blue Star families, along with Gold Star, Exceptional Family Member Program and New Parent Support Program families who attended Project North Pole Dec. 9 at the Warrior Transition Battalion clamshell.

The event was organized by the American Legion with the support of USO Fort Riley; Girl Scout Troops 1641 and 644; the American Red Cross, Commanding General’s Mounted Color Guard; Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and various Army Community Service organizations, such as New Parent Support Program and EFMP. The purpose of the holiday affair was to give out free toys to children of these families.

See NORTH POLE, page 12



Spc. Jimmy White, left, 1st Maintenance Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, holds daughter Paisley White, 2, while she gets her face painted during Project North Pole Dec. 9 at the Warrior Transition Battalion Clamshell. The face-painting services were provided by Girl Scout Troops 1641 and 644.



Emily Warren, instructional coach, helps Emmanuel Sokoye-Patoki, 6, son of Staff Sgt. Abalo Sokoye-Patoki, 41st Engineer Company (Clearance), 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, during the Hour of Code event Dec. 4 at Jefferson Elementary School library.

Taking a byte out of coding

Fort Riley parents, kindergarteners study computer skills

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

The sound of kids and adults chattering loudly and quick footsteps could be heard at the Jefferson Elementary School library Dec. 4 between 2 to 3 p.m. This was an unlikely aural phenomenon for a library, but it was all in the name of promoting computer science.

The Hour of Code takes place internationally during Computer Science Education Week. The event aims to teach kids to be comfortable with computer science and coding, said Dan Sell, science, technology, engineering and mathematics coach for Unified School District 475.

“There are some other things that get taught, too, especially with younger kids, you see a lot of their spatial awareness,” Sell said. “They have to program a robot to move a certain direction in a certain amount of space. They have to put themselves in that position and think which way does it need to turn and where does it need to go.”

Kids and their parents were invited to test out several gadgets that hone skills vital to learning how to code. These educational toys helps develop necessary skills for topics related to just computer science courses, but also any STEM subjects.

See CODING, page 12

Fort Riley students growing greater knowledge of world

Middle-school kids studying hydroponic tower gardens

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

Students of Fort Riley Middle School are taking a hands-on approach to learning about where their produce comes from with three hydroponic tower gardens set up in the school.

A year ago, several teachers got together to write a grant request to help them fund the tower gardens project with the intention of using the gardens to teach students across multiple grade levels and in different classes, said Helen Pugh, eighth grade social studies teacher at Fort Riley Middle School.

“Last year, a group of us wrote a grant to acquire money for these tower gardens,” she said. “We assembled them in the spring and a few different times in the fall. We sort of started them in phases.”

Pugh said she uses the gardens in her academic strategies and social studies classes with her students. The gardens are also used throughout various science courses and geography classes.

“We teach them in geography, when you go to the grocery and you look at the little stickers, where does our produce come from?” she said. “With social studies, we talk about imports and exports ... This starts to show them the challenges that happen.”

The tower gardens are used

See GARDENS, page 12



Students of Fort Riley Middle School are growing their understanding of where their food comes from and how to care for them with three hydroponic tower gardens. As a hydroponic tower garden, the plants do not require any soil.

Warrant officers hold social

Bunco night offers group opportunity to share holiday cheer

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

Holiday cheer and fun with family and friends were the order of the evening as the U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association Mid-America Chapter hosted a bunco social night Dec. 6 at Riley’s Conference Center.

Prizes were given out to attendees at the conclusion of the Bunco games.

The social night was held to promote esprit de corps among warrant officers and the military community, said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Anthony Nistico, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

The event featured attendance of newly minted warrant officers and those with greater



John Bonacorda, retired Chief Warrant Officer 2 and Vietnam War Veteran, tries his hand at Bunco, a dice game that uses three dice. It was the first time playing the game for the former UH-1 Crew Chief and Door Gunner.

experience. One of the latter was retired Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Bonacorda. After serving one year in Vietnam in the enlisted ranks in 1967, Bonacorda became a warrant officer. He retired in 1979.

“(In Vietnam) I was a UH-1 crew chief,” he said. “I started

out at Túc Vinh and was there for five and a half months, then I went to Bien Hoa and Dak To.”

Bonacorda was also a door gunner.

“One side (of the helicopter) is both door gunner and crew

See BUNCO, page 12

FORT RILEY POST-ITS

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The Swinging Bears from Ware Elementary School will be performing Christmas carols at the Main Post Exchange at 2210 Trooper Drive.

Join the second and third graders in this festive event from 1:15 to 1:45 p.m. on Dec. 15.



CHRISTMAS CARD CREATION CRAFT SHOP

The Main Post Exchange is hosting a Christmas card making craftshop for kids to express their creativity 'tis holiday season.

Event will be held at noon Dec. 16 at 2210 Trooper Drive. For more information, call 785-784-2026.



FORT RILEY REEL TIME THEATER SCHEDULE

Friday, Dec. 15

The Star (PG) 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 16

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

Thor: Ragnarok (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 17

Daddy's Home 2 (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

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.



HOLIDAY HOOPS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



All company-level teams of active-duty Soldiers are welcome to take part in this single-elimination tournament.

Participating teams will qualify for Commander's Cup points. The game will be held at Whitside Fitness Center Dec. 16 at 10 a.m. Advance registration is required. For more information call 785-239-2813.

ADULT ARTS & CRAFTS

The Fort Riley MWR is hosting an adult art class featuring a ceramic reindeer bag Dec. 17. The cost is \$20 per person, which includes all supplies and materials.

The event is between 1:30 to 4 p.m. at the Arts & Crafts Center, 6918 Trooper Drive.

For more information call Fort Riley MWR at 785-239-9205 or visit riley.armymwr.com.

HOLIDAY CONCERT

The 1st Infantry Division Band will swoon crowds with famous holiday music at C.L. Hoover Opera House in Junction City on Dec. 15 and 16.

The symphony is free and open to the public. Concert starts 7:30 p.m. on both days and is located 135 W. Seventh St. For more information, visit jcoperahouse.org or call 785-238-3906.



PICTURES WITH SANTA

Jingle all the way every Saturday and Sunday for photos with Santa Claus in December from 3 to 5 p.m. at the mall area of Main Post Exchange in building 2210 Trooper Drive.

For more information on meeting and greeting Santa, call 785-784-2026.



SPLASH SATURDAY

Get wet at Splash Saturday Dec. 16 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Eyster Pool, 6940 Warren Road. Scale the aquatic climbing wall and tackle the inflatable obstacle course.

Admission is \$1.50 for Department of Defense ID holders ages 3 to 12, \$3 for DoD ID holders ages 13 and up, \$5 for guests and free for ages 2 and under.

For more information, call 785-239-4854.

LIBRARY MOVIE NIGHT

Munch on free snacks and watch "The Polar Express" at the Fort Riley Post Library at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 16 at 5306 Hood Drive.

This free event is open to all ages. For more information call 785-239-5305.

TACO TUESDAY

Get your taco fix for lunch Dec. 19 at Riley's Conference Center. Best part about it is it's all you can eat. The buffet includes choices of meat, hard and soft taco shells, salsa bar, rice, beans, salad bar and dessert.

Salad bar only costs \$5.95 and the full buffet is \$9.95 with drink included. Meal begins from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 446 Seitz Drive.

EXCHANGE ZUMBA CLASS

Beat the bulge during the holiday with Zumba.

The Main Post Exchange will have a "Holiday Trimming" Zumba class every Saturday at 9:30 a.m. in December. The class is free.



COMMUNITY CORNER

Ring in holidays at Fort Riley

By Col. John D. Lawrence
FORT RILEY GARRISON COMMANDER

The holiday season is in full swing and there's no shortage of opportunities to make memories and celebrate traditions with family and friends around the Flint Hills Region. Here are just a few examples:



Colonel Lawrence

DEC. 15
• 7 p.m. – Free showing of the movie "The Star" at Barlow Theater. Hosted by Fort Riley's Army Substance Abuse Program.

• 7:30 p.m. – Free holiday concert at Junction City's C.L. Hoover Opera House. The 1st Infantry Division Band performs Christmas music including jolly classics and traditional sounds of the season. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

DEC. 16

• 11 a.m. – Wreaths Across America at the Fort Riley Post Cemetery. Join the Fort Riley, 1st Infantry Division, VFW and Boy Scouts team as we come together – at the same time as 1,200 other locations across the country – to remember and honor our fallen service members.

• Various times – USO Jolly Days. Visit for a gift-wrap station, hot cocoa bar, DIY cards and coloring station, 3D snowflake-making, sugar cookie decorating and more. Visit fortriley.uso.org/events/69 for a complete listing of dates, times and activities.

• 7:30 p.m. – Free holiday concert at Junction City's C.L. Hoover Opera House. The 1st Infantry Division Band performs Christmas music including jolly classics and traditional sounds of the season. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

DEC. 21

• 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. – Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers holiday party at the Warrior Zone. A free event with door prizes, drawings, games and more. A nominal fee will be charged for some activities.

DEC. 23

• 1 and 3 p.m. – Story-time at the USO. Santa will read "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" and each family will receive a recordable story-book. Registration is required.

DEC. 24

Note: For a full list of services, visit www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort-Riley-Service/Chaplain and click on the "Fort Riley Religious Holiday Event Flier" in the upper-right section of the page.

• 3 p.m. – Christmas Eve carriage rides at the historic Main Post Chapel. The Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard leads wagon rides and caroling.

• 4:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve Children's Mass, Victory Chapel.

• 5:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Kapaun Chapel

• 6 p.m. – Christmas Eve candlelight service, Main Post Chapel

• Midnight – Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, St. Mary's Chapel

• All day – Holiday movie marathon at the USO.

DEC. 25

• Noon to 6 p.m. – Christmas at the USO. Snacks, desserts, drinks, movies, games and giveaways will be available and all visitors Dec. 24 and 25 receive an entry ticket in the USO holiday giveaway drawing. Call 785-240-5326.

• 8:45 a.m., Christmas Day Mass, Victory Chapel

• Noon, Christmas Day Mass, St. Mary's Chapel

ONGOING

Visit the Fort Riley MWR Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pg/rileymwr/events to learn about their multiple activities, including Child and Youth Services Parent Central Saturday hours, Bubble Guppies, Holiday Hoops basketball tournament, Splash Saturdays, library movie night with "The Polar Express," and Adult Art: Ceramic Reindeer Bag.

There are plenty of things to see and do outside the gate too. To see what our surrounding communities have to offer, visit www.riley.army.mil/Portals/0/Docs/Community/CommPartner/Outside-GateDEC.pdf.

Please get out and enjoy the season, safely, with your friends, family members and co-workers this year. Happy Holidays!

— To comment on this article or to suggest a topic for Community Corner, email usarmy.riley.imcom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil.

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.

The app is not currently approved for government mobile devices.

Be Army ready - Stay informed

For more information and installation instructions visit www.riley.army.mil/Community/Ready-Army/

WORSHIP

Protestant Services

Victory Chapel 239-0834
Contemporary Protestant Service
Sunday Worship.....1100
Children's Church.....1115-1215

Morris Hill Chapel 239-2799
Gospel Protestant Service
Sunday School.....0900
Sunday Worship.....1100

Main Post Chapel 239-0834
Traditional Protestant Service
Sunday Worship.....1030

Catholic Services

Victory Chapel 239-0834
Sunday Mass.....0845
Sunday Catechism.....1000

Saint Mary's Chapel 239-0834
Saturday's Vigil Mass.....1630
Sunday Mass.....1200
Mid-day Mass- Mon., Wed., & Fri.....1200
Tuesday & Thursday Mass.....1800

IACH Chapel 239-7872
Mid-day Mass- Tue. & Thur.1200

Jewish Service

For Sabbath Services please contact the Division Chaplain at 240-6268.

Open Circle Service

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

Wednesday Family Night
Weekly classes from 1900-2000 at Victory Chapel
785-239-3359. Watchcare provided for birth-2yrs.

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

AWANA
Meets Sundays, 1400-1600 Victory Chapel
785-239-0875

Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC)
Weekly Tuesday Meeting 0900-1130 & Evenings at 1830-2000 at Victory Chapel
Childcare Provided.
For more information email rileywoc@gmail.com or Facebook "Fort Riley PWOC"

Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC)
Weekly Wednesday Meeting at St. Mary's Chapel 0900-1130
Childcare provided.
For more information email fortrileywoc@gmail.com or Facebook "Fort Riley CWOC"

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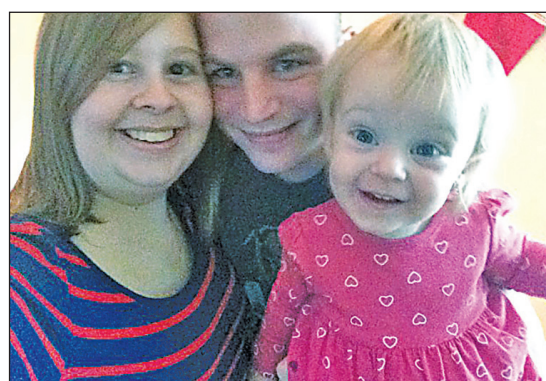
HE'S MAKING A LIST!



Suet Lee-Growney | POST

Noah Berry, 4, left and Avery Berry, 2, sons of Sgt. Derek Berry, Troop T, 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, smile for photos at the Pictures with Santa event at the Main Post Exchange Dec. 9. Santa will be there every Saturday and Sunday of December for photos between 3 to 5 p.m.

TUESDAY TRIVIA CONTEST



The question for the week of Dec. 12 was: Where might I find information on the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)?

Answer: www.riley.army.mil/Services/Soldier-Services/Army-Substance-Abuse-Program/

This week's winner is Shelby Crawford, spouse of Pfc. Tyler Crawford, of Headquarters Support Company, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division.

Pictured above are Shelby and Tyler Crawford, along with their daughter, Coraline.

CONGRATULATIONS SHELBY!

Santa visits post library holiday party

Claus' 17th annual visit leaves patrons full of holiday spirit

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

The Fort Riley Post Library threw their 17th annual Visit to the Library from Santa Claus holiday party Dec. 9 at the facility.

The free event was organized to give families a chance to visit the library and meet Santa and one of his reindeer, who was Terri Seaman, contract manager at the Fort Riley Post Library. During the party, kids had some Christmas cookies with hot cocoa and made their own reindeer food.

"The reindeer food, which is oatmeal and glitter, can be sprinkled out on the snow for reindeer on Christmas Eve, so that we can find our way," Seaman said. "The kids seem to have a lot of fun doing it."

The festive fun was meant for the children, but Seaman said the library is more than just a place for its patrons to get books and movies; it's a place for parents to come and socialize too.

"It gives them a chance to come out and interact with the public here at the library," she said. "We actually have a lot of



LEFT: Clarice Conaty, wife of Pvt. David Conaty, Company A, 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, places her daughter Emma, 5 months old, on Santa's lap at the Visit to the Library from Santa Claus holiday party at the Fort Riley Post Library Dec. 9. It was Emma's first time meeting Santa. **RIGHT:** Cayden Coop, 6, left, son of Sgt. Jason Coop, Troop A, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and Maxine Harleman, 5, daughter of Staff Sgt. Joseph Harleman, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, make reindeer food using oats and glitter at the Visit to the Library from Santa Claus holiday party at the Fort Riley Post Library.



families who come to our events and they'll meet other and they bond. They become friends because they have kids at the same age."

Seaman said it is always fun for her to watch the younger patrons grow up through the years.

"It's fun because you get to see the kids and you get to see the new kids coming in," she said. "I've been here long enough now that I know people who have transferred out to another post and then came

back. And then you see the kids you haven't seen in four years and then you go 'oh my goodness', the child was 5 the last time I saw him and now he's like 12."

One of the kids who was at the library party was Marc Nelson III, 5, son of Spc. Marc Nelson Jr., a Fort Riley Soldier, was not bashful in telling Santa what he wanted for Christmas.

"I want a dinosaur because I love dinosaurs," Nelson said.

He said his favorite part of the party was getting to meet Santa.

Marc's mother, Keyon Nelson, said the thought the party went well for her and her only son because they got to do something different.

"It was really nice," she said. "Making the reindeer food, that was something different. We rarely have stuff to do around here."

For Keyon, attending the party was a mother-son bonding experience for her and Nelson.

"It brings us closer," she said. "It's amazing, I like doing stuff with him."



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New Year's Day, Monday Jan 1: (CLOSED)



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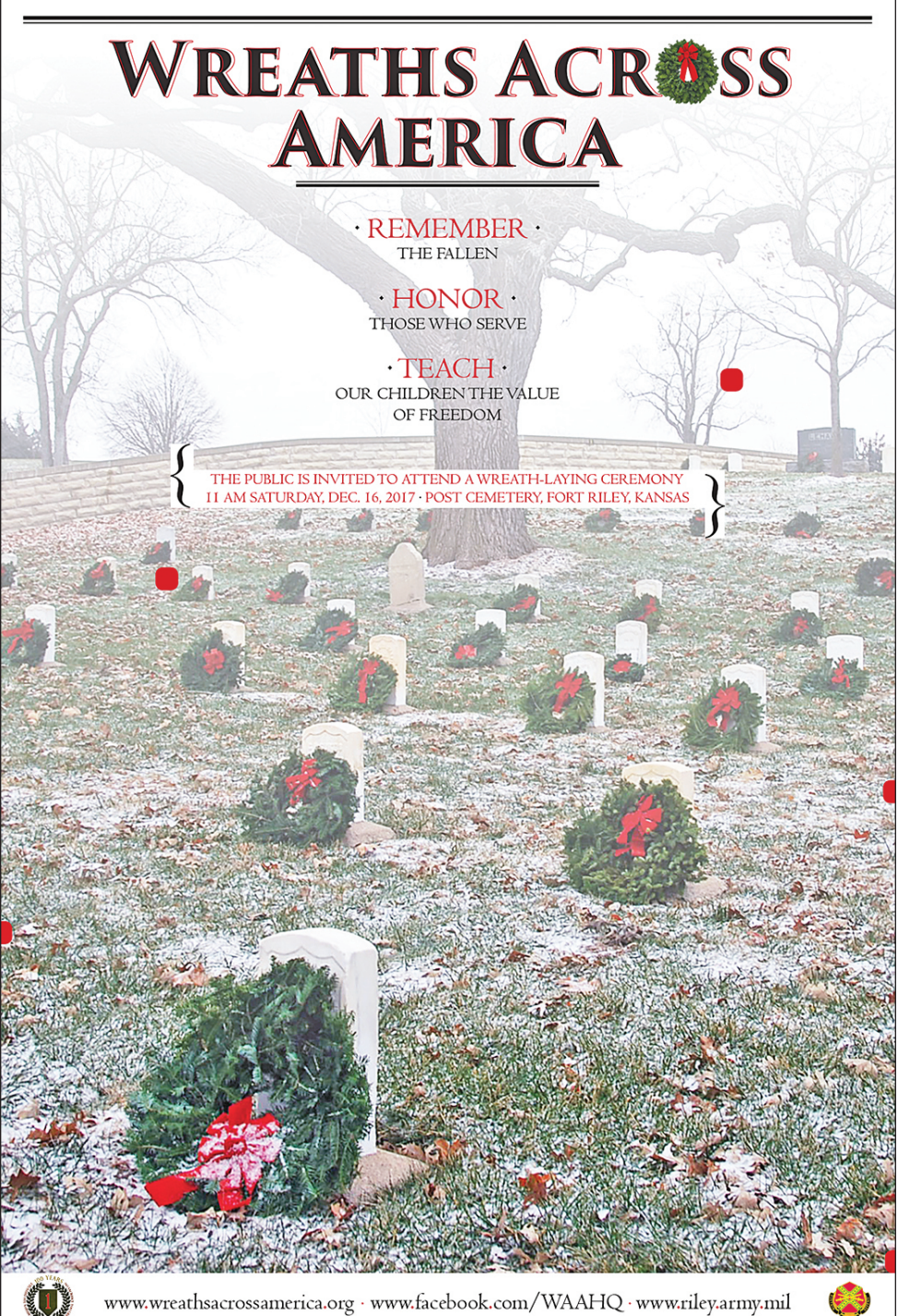
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GARDENS Continued from page 9

to teach students about growing seasons and climates, so students can understand how and why they can have cherries all year long now versus in the past when people could seasonal eat only produce.

With the science courses and academic strategies courses, Pugh said students learn about the growing process of plants, such as pollination and a flower growing into the produce afterward. They also understand more about the role of insects such as butterflies and bees in the pollination process that leads to their food.

"There's some kids who have no idea where their food comes from other than Dillons or the (Post Exchange) and just to see them 'this is how this grows?' 'This is what it has?' And then when we're thinning them out and they see the roots — just how amazed they are at the roots," said Melissa Hall, teacher of STEM Lab, Robotics and Advancement via Individual Determination at Fort Riley Middle School. "They've all learned about that part, but to actually see 'oh, this is what they're talking about' rather than just a picture."

As a hydroponic tower garden, the plants do not require any soil. Instead, they grow vertically up a sectioned pillar and is filled with nutrients that feeds the roots while grow lights assist.

"It's all hydroponics, so looking at it from a scientific point, the soil's not needed and even for adults, that's such a misconception," Pugh said.

The students are responsible for testing and balancing the pH in the water, adding nutrients and maintaining the overall health of the garden, she said.

"They're (her academic strategies class) the ones that have been taking care of the pH levels, checking the water in the system, pruning," Pugh said. "Our cucumbers, something is going on with the leaves, so they're responsible for researching what is going on and to find a solution."

Outside of the scientific, geographical and historical lessons the gardens provide, the students are also growing themselves on a personal level, Hall said.

"It gives them a hands-on experience with plants," she said.

"There's some kids who have no idea where their food comes from other than Dillons or the (Post Exchange) ..."

MELISSA HALL
TEACHER, FORT RILEY
MIDDLE SCHOOL

"It teaches them responsibility and then there have also been some students who have developed leadership skills because they understand how to do this and then they have the opportunity to help other students."

The students have been growing crops like tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, kale and spinach in the gardens, Pugh said. As the produce matured, the students got their first taste of the fruits of the labor.

"The lettuce came up first, so they're been eating the lettuce," she said with a laugh. "Just eating raw lettuce for eighth graders — for some that took some convincing, others, they just did it. There's been high, high interest in it."

As the other produce grows and ripens, Pugh said the students have every intention of devouring them too.

"We definitely have the intent to eat everything and the kids, they're eager," she said. "They're looking at how fast everything grows, like the lettuce, spinach and kale grow faster versus the tomato or even the cucumbers."

Pugh and Hall both said this is something they would like to continue long into the future with their students; however, funding challenges make their plans difficult. The two, along with other teachers and students, as brainstorm ways to continue having the gardens without additional grant writing.

In the meantime, they said they will continue to enjoy watching their students' interest and wonder grow.

"I've seen nothing but curiosity and respect toward it," Pugh said.

BUNCO Continued from page 9

chief, and the other side is just a door gunner," he said.

When asked what drew him to become a warrant officer, Bonacorda didn't mince words.

"I got tired of being an NCO (noncommissioned officer)," he said with a laugh.

Another attendee was Chief Warrant Officer 3 Edwin Reyes, an air traffic controller and air-space manager for the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Inf. Div. For Reyes, the Bunco event was his final official gathering before retiring after a 20 year career.

Like Bonacorda, Reyes is a former NCO. What led him to apply to become a warrant officer was the scarcity of promotion opportunities in the enlisted ranks of his chosen career field.

"When I was a sergeant first class in one of my schools (for air space management) I was told 'there is no chance you guys

are going to make E-9,'" Reyes said. "And I still had about 11 years left in my career. So I decided to look for other options and, luckily, the opportunity to become a warrant officer doing the same thing came out. So I submitted my packet and I was selected right away."

During the event, Nistico said he is also working with the USAWOA-Mid-America Chapter to fund two scholarships for local students.

"It's a challenge because there are so many worthwhile causes in this area," he said. "But we're busy right now raising money for one scholarship for a Junction City (Kansas) High School senior and one for a Manhattan (Kansas) High School senior."

The night of games was a time for warrant officers old and new to meet, greet and be jolly.

CODING Continued from page 9

"The kids have to think about everything they want their robot to do," Sell said. "A lot of what these (educational toys) are teaching is that sequential patterning that happens in a computer."

Easing the kids into computer science through interactive games that promote coding at a young age can be beneficial to the kids, said Heather Ryan, Jefferson Elementary School library media specialist.

"The jobs that (the kids) will have in the future don't even exist yet," Ryan said. "Computer programming is not going anywhere; this event is getting the kids ready for their future — very early."

Lakelie Reynaud, kindergarten teacher at Jefferson Elementary, echoed Ryan's sentiments and said she hopes her students will be more open to more STEM job opportunities at a young age through their hands-on participation with coding activities.

"I think it lets boys and girls know they can start early to be thinking of any career path that they want to do," Reynaud said. "I can see them taking ownership of what they can do. And it was like their lightbulb kind of went off, 'Hey, I can do this and I know how to do this.'"

Beth Hudson, associate superintendent for Devin Learning Center to Geary County Schools, Kansas, and Linda Bongers, USD 475 director of professional



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, and her mother Christy Simmer try and figure out how to program a lighted sphere during the Hour of Code event Dec. 4 at Jefferson Elementary School library.

learning, stopped by the library to see the students during the Hour of Code.

"We wanted to see the kids in action, to see the problem solving and to see the Hour of Code in action," Bongers said. "I think it's so much fun to see the kindergartners so engaged and so caught up — that's what it's all about. I think it's something we want to

NORTH POLE Continued from page 9

"It kind of relieves some stress with getting gifts for the kids," Loyd said. "It helps me know that they are happy during the holidays, instead of sad. I love it, my kids loved it, they did all the activities and they were super excited to see Santa and I think they were more excited that they actually got a gift from Santa."

Bill "Hippie" Ryan, chairman of Project North Pole and member of the American Legion, said the whole process, from the planning stages until the point where the family leaves, has an order and is highly organized.

The process for Project North Pole started months in advance with families who qualify for the event signing their children up to receive toys. From there, Santa's naughty or nice list was passed on to American Legion volunteers two weeks prior to the event, Ryan said. The volunteers sorted out the recipients by gender and ages zero to 18. And then the appropriate number of toys per category were purchased.

After the preparation, on Dec. 9, families signed in and held on to information of their kids while they stood in line to meet Mrs. Claus, then Santa, on stage.

"When the kids come in, they will get in line to see Mrs. Claus first," Ryan said. "She takes the envelope that has the kids' names and ages and everything in it. She hands it behind the stage where we have a whole group of people back there."

Backstage was where the magic happened, Ryan said. While the family was getting photos taken with the Clauses, there was a group of volunteers getting presents ready for children as they left the stage. At the end of the event, there is a plan in place for the extra toys.

"We have probably about 1,000 toys," Ryan said. "When this event is over here, if there are any extra toys, we will take them up to the USO and donate them. They'll have Christmas programs between now and Christmas and they'll hand the rest of them out there, but they will all stay on post."

Jeff Reade, outreach branch manager at Army Community Service, said Project North Pole is a fantastic event every year and this is about the eighth year the American Legion has hosted this event at Fort Riley.

"I think this might be the biggest one we've ever had," Reade said. "For most of the staff that work this event, this is our most fun day at work without a doubt."

Then Reade pointed to a young boy walking past his with a bunch of balloons in his hand.

"I remember when I was a kid his age, I sat on Santa Claus's lap," he said. "That was really cool and now he's going to grow up remembering that."

As for the event space, transforming the clamshell into a festive atmosphere took a few days of decorating, said Carrie Barnett, NPSP home visitor. Barnett and a group of volunteers from NPSP helped clear out the space and worked on a tight budget to prepare for the event.

"We did a lot of the decorations ourselves," Barnett said. "We just used what we had and try to make the stage the focal point."

This is the fourth year in a row Barnett has helped decorate the space for Project North Pole. For her, seeing the reaction of the people who attend the event keeps her coming back to participate year after year.

"That's exactly why I do it," she said. "The headache we have to make everything look pretty goes away the minute those kids walk in the door and they just light up — it's magical. And with these kids and their fathers' being deployed, we need to provide a little extra spirit into their season."

Loyd said she is glad her family had the opportunity to participate on a holiday like this, especially with her husband being gone.

"I'm thankful that Fort Riley threw this for the deployed families," Loyd said. "So to have this for them, it really lifts up everyone's spirits because we actually are being thanked for all the sacrifices we go through."

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-Advance Registration Required! Visit our Eventbrite Page to Register!
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-Surf the channels for one of your favorite holiday movies or check one out from our video library! Popcorn provided.
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Sports & Recreation

Another year, another win for the Army



EJ Hersom | Department of Defense

Army quarterback Ahmad Bradshaw rushes the ball on the final scoring drive in the 118th Army-Navy Game in Philadelphia Dec. 9. Bradshaw went on to score on a one-yard rush to give Army the win 14-13.

Black Knights Squeak Past Midshipmen in Army-Navy Game

By Jim Garamone
DOD NEWS, DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON — In a day dominated by tradition, the only one that really counted was Army “sang second.”

The student bodies of the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy sing the school song at the end of the Army-Navy football game. The winner sings last.

The game went right down to the wire with Navy missing a field goal and Army winning 14-13.

Army also won the Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy as both Army and Navy beat the Air Force Academy this year. It was the 118th meeting in the rivalry.

Philadelphia looked more like Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin, as the midshipmen and cadets marched into Lincoln Financial Field in driving snow that intensified as the game went on.

The Army Black Knights wore white uniforms honoring the 10th Mountain Division and merged into the snowy

field. The Navy midshipmen wore blue uniforms honoring the Blue Angels.

For the past week, the Army and Navy corridors in the Pentagon were abuzz about the game. Army and Navy “spirit squads” roamed the halls Friday before they headed to Philadelphia.

SENIOR LEADERS ATTEND RIVALRY

Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan attended the game along with Navy Secretary Richard Spencer and Army Secretary Mark Esper, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr. and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson.

The game — carried by CBS — is truly a worldwide draw and the network showed troops in Kandahar, Afghanistan, troops deployed to Puerto Rico, aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln and “spirit videos” from around the world.

Army began the game with an 11-play drive for a touchdown. Army followed its game plan for the season with

not one pass during the series. In fact, Army threw only one pass in the whole game. It was complete.

Navy answered with a drive that yielded a field goal — again with no passes.

Both teams battled the elements as much as each other, and at the end of the first quarter, the Black Knights were ahead 7-3.

At the beginning of the second quarter, Navy quarterback Malcolm Perry burst free and ran 68 yards for a touchdown, and the half ended with Navy ahead 10-7.

The midshipmen began the third quarter with a field goal pushing the score to 13-7, and that is how the quarter ended.

Army charged back in the fourth quarter scoring a touchdown by quarterback Ahmad Bradshaw and with the extra point, took the lead 14-13. But there was plenty of time left as Navy got the ball with good field position. Navy drove, but an attempted 48-yard field goal sailed wide and left as time expired in the game.

The cadets and midshipmen in the stands moved to the field and Navy sang the alma mater — followed by Army.

Soldiers conquer courts during intramural basketball



Sgt. Raymundo Parga, 526th Quartermaster Composite Supply Company, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, shoots against the Warrior Transition Battalion during the Quartermasters’ first game of the Intramural Basketball season Dec. 7 at Whitside Fitness Center. The Quartermasters put the first points on the board within seconds of the game starting, but WTB took the victory in the end at 42-36.

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

Roars and cheers filled the indoor courts during the second night of intramural basketball season Dec. 7 at Whitside Fitness Center.

The season began two days earlier, so the night was filled with first and second games for most teams.

Intramural basketball is open to unit-level teams only, said Renee Satterlee, intramural sports coordinator, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Thus far, 14 teams are signed up for the season, but Satterlee said she expects the number to increase as a few pending teams return from the Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, Louisiana.

“Since it’s unit level, it helps build that unit cohesion,” she said of intramural basketball. “Of course, because basketball is a team sport, it helps them build as a team.”

In the first game of the night, Soldiers of the Warrior Transition Battalion faced off against the 526th Quartermaster Composite Supply Company, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade. Within seconds of the match beginning, the Quartermasters put points on the board, but WTB was quick to respond. By the end of the game, the WTB had a lead and took the victory at 42-36.



Soldiers of the Warrior Transition Battalion, in cream, face off against Soldiers of 526th Quartermaster Composite Supply Company, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade team, in white, during the second night of intramural basketball games Dec. 7 at Whitside Fitness Center.

Strong bond among players, fellow cadets propels Army to second win over Navy



Army cadets storm the field for the second straight year, after Army defeated Navy 14-13 and claimed the Commander-In-Chief's trophy. More than 68,000, in people including 4,000 West Point cadets, were present at the game Dec. 9 at Lincoln Financial Field.

Story and photo by Joe Lacdan
ARMY NEWS

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — As hundreds of West Point cadets poured out from the stands onto a snow-covered Lincoln Financial Field following a 14-13 triumph over Navy, Army celebrated perhaps a turning point in the storied rivalry between the two schools.

For West Point's Class of 2018, being a part of the football tradition shifted the rivalry in Army's favor after losing 14 straight to the Midshipmen made the victory sweeter, said Cadet Vincent Hale.

Army (9-3) has won two straight over Navy (6-6), after last season's 21-17 victory in Baltimore. Before the Dec. 9 game started, football players rushed to the stands to greet fellow classmates, many of whom they attend classes and take part in drills with on a daily basis.

"The football team acts as an extension of us," Hale said, who will commission in May as a field artiller

lery officer. "They are our classmates. They are the guys that we do training with, that we do classes with, and that we kind of go through the same day-to-day military stuff with."

The weight of the annual contest was not lost on Army's seniors. Cadet Sam Crump, who will commission as a quartermaster, said the annual tradition continues to unite cadets.

"It's better than Christmas," Crump said. "I look forward to this more than 99 percent of the year. For people to sit in this seat and be lucky enough to view this game, it is an absolute blessing. I cannot think of a better experience with 4,000 of your closest friends. It's bar none the highlight of my college career."

After pounding their way to a 7-0 lead early in the first quarter, Army trailed the midshipmen for most of the contest. Navy led 13-7 before a late run by senior running back John Trainor put Army at the one half yard line. Senior quarterback Ahmad Bradshaw, behind a smothering effort by the Black Knights' offensive line,

scored the winning touchdown to put Army ahead.

"It was just a quarterback sneak," Bradshaw said. "I don't think I would've gotten in without my full-back and offensive line."

More than 68,000 spectators, including 4,000 West Point cadets, braved frigid temperatures and snow to attend the game.

At halftime, Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark Milley honored seven Soldiers for aiding hurricane relief efforts in Houston and Puerto Rico. Among them was 1st Lt. Nathen DeGen, an assistant operations officer assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment. He had helped coordinate rescue operations in both Hurricane Harvey and Maria.

While most cadets attend the contest each year, Lt. Col. Britt Erslev, a regimental tactical officer who mentors and coaches cadets at West Point, was attending her first Army-Navy game.

"It's a very historic game and it's a great opportunity to carry on the ri-

valry," she said. "But it also shows that we're united at the same time."

West Point cadets agreed camaraderie runs strong between the two branches. That camaraderie is exemplified during the annual "prisoner exchange" that happens during the game. At the exchange, West Point cadets who had been attending a semester of school at the U.S. Naval Academy, and midshipmen who had been attending a semester of school at the U.S. Military Academy, are symbolically returned to their own service. The exchange is symbolic because students won't actually return to their own campuses until January.

"For us this game is a really great rivalry because it's really the two biggest services duking it out," said Cadet Nicholas Miller. "But in the future we're basically going to be serving side by side combating U.S. enemies. To me personally, as a cadet, this is a way of just having that competitive spirit of 'we are America and we're the best,' and we have to be the best in the world to fight and win the nation's wars."

Navy, led by Malcom Perry's 250 rushing yards, seemingly dominated Army throughout the night. But the Army's defense, led by junior linebacker James Nachtigal stiffened at the crucial moments. Navy threatened the Army defense one final time, but junior kicker Bennett Moerhing's kick missed wide as time expired.

"Adrenaline rush," said Cadet Teresa Groten as she stood on the field while cadets and football players celebrated around her. "I thought it was over. It was awesome."

Army coach Jeff Monken said he noticed a stronger bond among Army's football players during the postgame celebration after winning the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy for the second straight season.

"The brotherhood is alive in that locker room," Monken said. "I am privileged to be a part of this team and to represent the great Academy and the United States Army and for all those that serve all over the world. It is an incredible feeling."

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Holiday markets sell homemade sweets like fudge to those in attendance at the Christkindlmarkt Dec. 9 in Manhattan. Holiday markets are a one-stop shop for seasonal goods, artisanal crafts, holiday snacks and gifts.

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

The holiday season brings gift markets to Fort Riley and the surrounding communities as vendors fill private residences and business spaces with local and unique items for purchase.

Holiday markets cover ideas to deck the halls and to fill the air with the scent of gingerbread cookies.

To those who enjoy farmer's markets CiCo Park, 1726 Avery Ave., Manhattan, will have a Winter Market Dec. 16 inside Pottorf Hall between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The indoor market has farm-fresh vegetables, local meats, fresh baked goods and area vendors selling unique holiday gift ideas like jams and flavored honey.

For more information visit www.facebook.com/Downtown-Farmers-Market-of-Manhattan or call their facility at 785-341-7794.

Kansas City, Missouri, will also have a Farmers Market Holiday Mart at Lee's Summit Elementary Gym, 110 SE Green St., Lee's Summit, Missouri, Dec. 16 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. The farmers market will have vendors with handmade gifts and homemade treats.

For more information about the Holiday Mart visit www.kcparent.com.

Also in Kansas City, Missouri, the Grinch and Cindy Lou Who will show some "Whospitality" at The City Market, 20 East 5th Street. All ages are invited to see the downtown area decorated as Whoville between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Donations of three cans of food or a new toy are suggested to the Help a Who campaign. For more information visit www.facebook.com/TheCityMarketKansasCity/.

Before the holiday season ends, Downtown Manhattan, Inc. will offer free horse-drawn carriage rides Dec. 15 through 17 beginning at 5 p.m. each day.



TOP: Holiday Markets bring dozens of local vendors like handmade clothing, decorative wood frames and facial remedies to wrap as holiday gifts or stocking stuffers at Lazy-T Ranch, Manhattan Dec. 9. **LEFT:** A variety of holiday markets across Kansas sell handmade decorations to spruce up homes for the holiday season at the Christkindl Market Dec. 2 at Riley's Conference Center. Other markets have holiday themed foods for sale like sugar cookies and provided family friendly activities like face painting. **BOTTOM:** Gallop into the holiday seasons with free carriage rides at 5 p.m. between Dec. 15 and Dec. 17 at the Blue Earth Plaza, 3rd and Colorado in Manhattan.

