



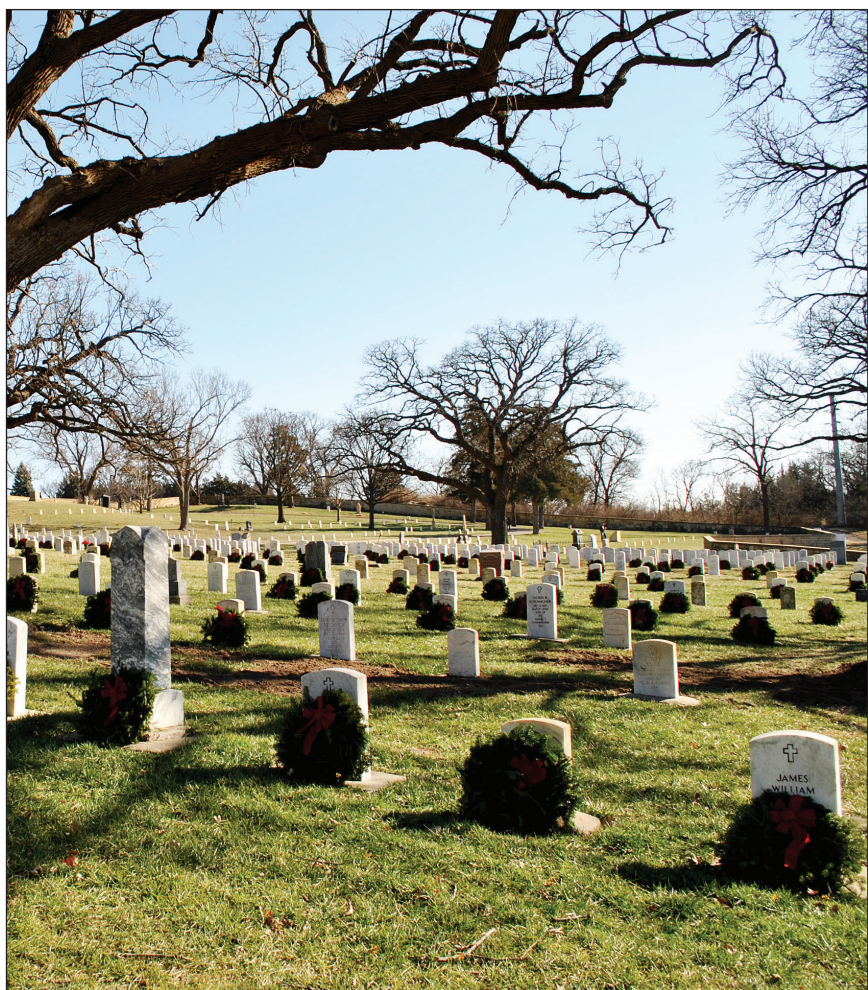
THE FIGHTING FIRST!

THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST

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FORT RILEY, KANSAS


Wreaths rest against tombstones of service members after volunteers placed them during Wreaths Across America Dec. 16 at the Fort Riley Main Post Cemetery. Event attendees recognized and honored the sacrifices made by service members to protect the freedoms of the U.S.

Wreaths to remember lives of the fallen service members

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

Saying the name aloud — it gives power, meaning to the life of the person buried beneath the tombstone a volunteer is laying a wreath upon.

At the Fort Riley Main Post Cemetery, service members, their families and members of the surrounding communities honored Soldiers buried here through Wreaths Across America Dec. 16 for the 11th year in a row.

“We encourage every volunteer here today who places a wreath on a veteran’s grave to say that veteran’s name aloud and take a moment to thank them for their service to our country,” said Linda Van Owen, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary district president. “It’s a small act that goes a long way to keeping the memory of our veterans alive.”

Each December, a day is set aside to remember the lives of fallen service members, honor their sacrifices and teach the value of freedom to children and adults alike, according to the website wreathscrossamerica.org. Ceremonies and wreath layings are held at more than 1,100 cemeteries and locations throughout the U.S. and overseas.

During the ceremony, eight special wreaths are placed upon stands by representatives

associated with each one. These wreaths represented Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, service members killed in action and prisoners of wars / missing in action.

“The wreaths before you represent our commitment as a united America to remember the fallen,” said Todd Hokanson, VFW district coordinator. “We also want these remembrance wreaths to symbolize our honor to those who have served and are serving in the armed forces of our great nation and to their families who endure sacrifices every day on our behalf. To our children, we want you to understand the freedoms you enjoy today have not been free, but have come with cost that someday you may have to pay yourself. As a nation standing together, we can defeat terrorism, hatred and injustice.”

Daniel Tucker, 10, member of Cub Scout Pack 260 and son of Lt. Col. Jason Tucker, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, attended the event alongside his family to lay wreaths, honor veterans and — in his words — enjoy some hot chocolate.

See WREATHS, page 3



The 1st Infantry Division Band brought the holiday season to the Flint Hills community with a series of free concerts at the historic C.L. Hoover Opera House in Junction City, Kansas, Dec. 15. A culmination of preparations dating back to September, the event consisted of musical arrangements prepared from multiple members of the band.

‘Big Red One’ band brings in holiday season concert

Story and photo by Capt. Ed Alvarado
19TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

JUNCTION CITY, Kan. — The 1st Infantry Division Band brought the holiday season to the Flint Hills community with a series of free concerts at the historic C.L. Hoover Opera House in Junction City, Kansas Dec. 15 and 16.

The concert boasted a diverse catalogue of songs, ranging from old classics like “Someday at Christmas” by Stevie Wonder to big rock orchestra songs like “Christmas Eve/Sarajevo” by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. The event was the culmination of preparations that started in September.

“That is when I formed a committee who came up with a theme and began planning the logistics,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Matthew David, commander and primary conductor of the 1st Inf. Div. Band. “That is also when I started writing the music arrangements for the concert.”

David, who earned a bachelor’s degree in music education from the University of Florida and a master’s degree in music performance in clarinet from Florida State University, had a specific vision when composing the program.

“My vision for the concerts is to compose music pieces that sound exactly like the recordings you hear on the radio; this is called aural transcription,” David, a native of Jacksonville, Florida, said. “It’s

a skill that I have been honing since I started transcribing music from my first deployment in 2006.”

A program this diverse also needed the assistance of the unique talent that the “Big Red One” possesses within its ranks.

“I’m very fortunate to have Spc. Michael Turner and Spc. Taylor Lovett who chose beautiful concert band literature; each of them will be conducting the pieces they chose,” David said. “Both of these talented Soldiers came enlisted already having music degrees and much civilian experience.”

According to David, this year’s concert also held extra meaning to the band, as the entire unit is home to perform in the concerts, in contrast to last year when a quarter of the unit was deployed.

“In the past, when certain members of the band were deployed, members of the Junction City Community Band stepped in to complete the ensemble,” said Joe Markley, who with his wife, Sheila, are directors of the opera house. “This is the first year to have the complete band here since I started as director.”

According to Markley, the 1st Inf. Div. Band has performed at the opera house for the past six years.

“The band concert is always the highlight for the community,” Markley said. “With the many close ties that we have with Fort Riley, it is an event that really draws people together.”

YEAR IN REVIEW



Spc. Elizabeth Payne | 19th Public Affairs Detachment
Maj. Rocknee M. Gardner, engineer operations officer, 1st Infantry Division, reunites with his family during a welcome home ceremony June 14 at Fort Riley. More than 150 Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Inf. Div. returned home from a 9-month tour in Iraq in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve. This is the top news story for 2017. See the rest, go to page 21.

‘Dagger’ brigade Soldiers train deploying Hungarians

By Capt. Orlandon Howard
2ND ABCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ZAGAN, Poland — Soldiers from Troop C, 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, led a combat life-saver course Dec. 11 and 12 in Tata, Hungary, for about 25 Hungarian soldiers from the 25th Hungarian Armored Brigade. The training was to support preparations for their deployment to Kosovo for the NATO-led Kosovo Force mission.

The troop is part of a combined arms squadron currently deployed to Hungary with 2nd ABCT as a part of Atlantic Resolve, a mission orchestrated to provide a credible deterrent against aggression in the region.

The troop partnered with the 25th Bde. to conduct combined training to increase their understanding of one another’s capabilities and strengthen their interoperability. The 25th Bde. requested the troop provide the medical training because two of their companies have upcoming deployments to Kosovo and Iraq.

“They wanted to ensure their soldiers could perform basic medical procedures in case of injuries during their deployment,” said Capt. Terry Battison, commander of Troop C, 5th Sqdn, 4th Cav. Regt.

This particular training audience included soldiers from the company deploying to Kosovo, while a second period of instruction is scheduled later this month for the company deploying to Iraq.

They spent two days learning and practicing basic techniques for providing medical care under fire, to include security measures, treatment of hemorrhages, clearance of airways and shock prevention and control.

The course was led by one of the troops’ junior leaders, Cpl. Cedric Jackson, with the assistance of two fellow Soldiers, Spc. Frank McIntosh and Pfc. Gabriel Pygott, all combat medics.

It was also designed to allow cross-training between the two forces. While U.S. Soldiers led the instruction, the Hungarian soldiers contributed insight about their techniques for medical treatment.

See MEDICAL, page 3



COURTESY PHOTO
Cpl. Cedric Jackson, Troop C, 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, assists a Hungarian soldier in applying tape to secure a fluid administration tube to a simulated casualty during a combat life saver course U.S. Soldiers led Dec 11-12.

FORT RILEY VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Annerys Baez-Santana, recognized by 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, assists with her unit’s battalion Family Readiness Group events. She made table decorations for the ball and helped with her battalion’s Facebook page. She has helped to shape and mentor the battalion FRG and FRGs at the battery level.

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

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TOP FIVE COMMUNITY LIFE STORIES REVEALED, SEE PAGE 11

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



TOP FIVE SPORTS STORIES REVEALED, SEE PAGE 17

Blue Star kids receive free bikes



Blue Star children between the age 6 to 8 pick out a free bicycle and helmet Dec. 12 at Academy Sports Manhattan, Kansas. With the coordination of Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, 60 of these bikes were donated to families of deployed Soldiers.

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

With an infant car seat in the crook of her arm, a toddler in a child carrier on her back and two kids under the age of 10 in tow, Stephanie Marshall, wife of Sgt. Justin Weaver, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, made her way to find a spot to wait and receive a free bicycle for her daughter Kaylen Weaver, 6.

Marshall was one of the many Blue Star parents whose kids were eligible to receive a free bicycle and helmet waiting at Academy Sports in Manhattan, Kansas, Dec. 12. The Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation arranged for 60 bicycles and helmets fit for kids ages 6 through 8 years old to be given out to families of deployed Soldiers. A Blue Star family are family members of men and women serving in the armed forces during any period of war or hostilities in which the United States are engaged.

Marshall said the event was beneficial for her family because it's one thing off her kids' Christmas wish list. The program helped her get what her daughter wanted despite having to manage the holidays by herself this year, she said.

"It's a load off my shoulders that (Kaylen) is happy and not worried about daddy not being here for Christmas," Marshall said. "She's already asked multiple times if he's coming home for Christmas. He's already missed

enough, like he missed the birth of (my youngest). It's a big weight lifted off because she's happy."

For Kaylen, receiving her first big-girl bicycle means a great deal to her, Marshall said. Kaylen had been wanting a bicycle since she learned how to ride one.

"She's super excited now that she actually has a bike she can ride on and not have to worry for her friend to be done with her bike," she said. "She just learned how to ride a bike without training wheels and her friend has a bike. So she's been learning off of that one and was like, 'Can I please get a new one?' So we've been working on how to get her one and she's not missing out on anything even though (my husband) is gone."

Rodney Hollerich, store director of Academy Sports, said for him giving back to families of the deployed is a rewarding feeling.

"Seeing the smiles on the kids' faces just means more than you can even imagine and it warms the heart," Hollerich said. "It's a great feeling just giving back to the community."

The supervisor for that evening, Matt Enoch, DFMWR community program coordinator, said it increases resiliency of the family.

"Anything that we can do to increase morale and decrease stress of military families, increases the resiliency of the family member, especially the family member that is going through deployment," Enoch said. "Whether it's giving away free bikes ... those recreation experiences increase resiliency and that increased resilience translates into a more ready Army."

'Long Knife' squadron conducts live-fire exercise in Latvia



Capt. Matt Eley, a Carey, Ohio, native and the commander of "Tomahawk" Company, 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, receives information on his headset regarding the movements of his Soldiers during training in Adazi, Latvia, Dec. 10.

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

ADAZI, Latvia — Soldiers with the 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, executed a combined-arms live-fire exercise in Adazi, Latvia, Dec. 8 to 10.

The exercise tested the unit's ability to deploy its equipment and personnel within 48 hours of notification. Once at the deployed location, the Soldiers were required to employ their equipment.

This task included "zone reconnaissance," collecting information on opposing forces, terrain and possible routes to use to move through an area.

"This (exercise) proved that we are capable of conducting zone reconnaissance," said 1st Lt. Tyler Bobilya, a Fort Wayne, Indiana, native and platoon leader in 5th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., 2nd ABCT.

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher King, a Billings, Montana, native and tank platoon sergeant, said he has worked with armored forces for more than 11 years. In that time, he has learned the importance of his role as a tanker in the grand scheme of military operations.

"Our job is not just to fight as armored reconnaissance," King said. "We paint a picture for the brigade commander to influence how he wants to negotiate the battle space."

King emphasized maintaining proficiency on his team's equipment and the tactics necessary to be successful is critical to achieving success if deterrence against external threats to America's European allies and partner nations fails.

"There's nothing that will change the pace of the battlefield quicker than the introduction of a tank into the fight," King said.

The men and women of 5th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., are part of a list of units deployed to Europe to support Atlantic Resolve. Atlantic Resolve is a demonstration of the United States' commitment to the collective security of Eastern Europe through the deployment of rotational U.S. forces in cooperation with NATO allies and partner nations.

Changes in specialist, sergeant promotability

More 'robust' promotion list offers specialists, sergeants improved upward mobility

By C. Todd Lopez
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — This month, the Army could have selected for promotion more than 8,700 additional Soldiers to either sergeant or staff sergeant across more than 90 military occupational specialty and grade combinations.

Because not enough Soldiers are integrated on the promotion-recommended list, the Army was unable to fill available positions with Soldiers of these grades. Army personnel data, for instance, shows that less than 20 percent of specialists who were otherwise "fully qualified" and who met Army standards to be recommended for promotion to the rank of sergeant, were actually integrated on a promotion list.

A new Army policy released earlier this month aims to ensure, enough Soldiers will be integrated onto the list. The result will be more fully-qualified Soldiers get promoted, and the Army gets to fill leadership slots.

"When leaders at the headquarters level see these integrated promotion list trends, there is a perception and concern that 80 percent of the specialists have no potential to be sergeants in the Army," said Gerald J. Purcell, who serves as the personnel policy integrator within Army G-1's directorate for military personnel policy.

"We are sure this is not the case," Purcell said. "However, to enhance the selection process and ensure it is more competitive, fair and equitable for our Soldiers and the Army, we made changes to the relative policies."

Purcell said the changes do not lower promotion standards. Instead, he said, they afford fully qualified, quality Soldiers the opportunity to perform at higher ranks. Additionally, he said, the changes enable the Army to maximize the unique talents of those Soldiers.

"Our policies must support an Army commitment to retain the talented men and women we have accessed and trained," Purcell said. "These Soldiers are our future."

Now, the Army has codified changes to the semi-centralized promotion process to ensure more Soldiers appear on the promotion recommendation list than have in years past. The changes affect Soldiers in the Regular Army as well as Soldiers in the Army Reserve, Active Guard Reserve.

Under the new policy, every Soldier in the "primary zone" for promotion, and who is also "fully qualified" and meets Army standards for promotion to the next rank, is required to appear before a local promotion board.

"Appearance before a local promotion board is mandatory for all Soldiers upon initially reaching primary zone eligibility," reads an Army directive, signed by Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark T. Esper, which spells out the new policy. "All Soldiers approved for promotion list integration will be integrated into the promotion recommended list with all earned promotion points."

The semi-centralized promotion process — which is how specialists become sergeants, and how sergeants become staff sergeants — requires that commanders recommend fully qualified Soldiers to go before a local promotion board when they display potential to perform at the next higher grade.

Soldiers who do well at that local board are placed on the promotion recommended list, or PRL. The Army uses the PRL to select Soldiers for the next pay grade, based on how many promotion points a Soldier has earned. There are no changes to how promotion points are calculated, Purcell said.

For a Regular Army or Army Reserve Soldier to be deemed fully qualified, they must, among other things, have a high

school diploma or GED, have a passing score on their Army Physical Fitness Test, meet weight standards, and not be involved in the Army Substance Abuse Program as a result of a command referral.

For specialists seeking promotion to sergeant, they must also have completed Structured Self-Development level 1. For Soldiers seeking promotion to staff sergeant, they must have completed SSD level 2.

Specialists reach the primary zone for promotion to sergeant at 35 months' time in service, and 11 months' time in grade. Sergeants reach the primary zone for promotion at 71 months' time in service, 17 months' time in grade.

"These policy changes do not equate to automatic promotions," said Purcell.

Nevertheless, Purcell said, the changes are expected to reinforce a Soldier's responsibility for taking charge of their career and opens the opportunity to position themselves for advancement.

Some Soldiers who go before that local promotion board may not get a recommendation to the PRL. If that happens, those Soldiers must be counseled on why they were not recommended.

"Counseling must identify what Soldiers must do to improve their knowledge, skills and attributes and to prepare themselves for increased responsibility," reads the directive. "The counseling also must address the consequences of not being integrated into the promotion recommended list. This policy change enhances leader and professional development by reinforcing and getting the most out of existing counseling requirements."

Eventually, fully-qualified Soldiers who meet Army standards, but have not yet been recommended by a promotion board for inclusion on the PRL, will be integrated onto the PRL through a new mandatory list integration requirement.

For specialists, that mandatory list integration comes at 47 months' time in service, 23 months' time in grade. For

NOT ENOUGH SOLDIERS

"There are not enough Soldiers integrated onto the recommended list for us to promote to actual requirements," said Purcell. "We want to promote Soldiers by military occupational specialty, but they are not there to promote."

What Purcell said he and his team perceived was unit leaders may opt to only recommend the "best of the best" of their Soldiers to appear before a local promotion board — which is completely understandable. But often, that excludes quality Soldiers who are also fully qualified for promotion.

Additionally, having local standards for who should be recommended to go before a promotion board creates an uneven playing field for Soldiers across the Army when it comes to advancement.

If a commander at Unit Alpha, for instance, sets the bar extremely high for his board recommendation, and across the country at Unit Bravo, another commander sets the bar slightly lower, then it's possible for a Unit Bravo Soldier to get promoted over a more qualified Soldier from Unit Alpha — because the Unit Alpha Soldier was never recommended to a board, and thus, never had his name appear on a PRL.

"The commanders look at Soldiers and they recommend their best people for promotion," Purcell said. "There is this perception among Soldiers that the leaders at the company level are not being fair. I think that's not the case. What I think is happening is unit leaders are thinking the best people in their unit should be promoted. But what happens is when one limits those individuals at the unit level to 'the best,' there is no robust list for us at the department level to select the best in the Army as opposed to the best in one's unit. That's a big problem because it negatively impacts readiness and morale. Today, because there is no depth, as soon as a Soldier is recommended for promotion in many MOSs, they immediately make the cutoff score."

Under the new policy, every Soldier who reaches the "primary zone" and who is fully qualified, will have a shot at the next pay grade by competing against every other Soldier in their MOS, based on the promotion points they have earned.

"What we are doing is enhancing Army readiness levels by strengthening the NCO Corps," said Purcell. "We will do this in part by getting all fully qualified Soldiers who meet Army standards on the list so that when we pull all the names

"We will do this in part by getting all fully qualified Soldiers who meet Army standards on the list so that when we pull all the names in from across the Army, we will have a robust list that will allow us to ... meet enterprise wide requirements, and have enough people to meet competing demands."

Gerald J. Purcell | PERSONNEL POLICY INTEGRATOR/
ARMY G-1 DIRECTORATE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

sergeants, it comes at 83 months' time in service, 23 months' time in grade.

Commanders will not have the ability to stop mandatory list integration; however, when a commander feels a Soldier has no promotion potential, they must use the "bar to continued service," along with counseling, to keep them off the promotion list.

The Army Directive makes it clear unit leaders are responsible for training and developing Soldiers for increased levels of responsibility by the time a Soldier attains promotion eligibility in the primary zone. The newly established mandatory list integration policy, one full year following primary zone eligibility, reinforces an up-or-out Army system.

"Retention of Soldiers with no potential is inconsistent with Army service," Purcell said.

The bar to continued service puts those Soldiers identified as having no potential on notice that their continued service may not be in the Army's best interest.

Soldiers who reach the "secondary zone" for promotion — which is earlier than the primary zone — and who are also fully qualified, will still need to be recommended to a promotion board by their commanders.

in from across the Army, we have a robust list that will allow us to ... meet enterprise-wide requirements, and have enough people to meet competing demands."

That new process, Purcell said, places the responsibility on each Soldier to strive for increased promotion points. It also drives their behavior toward self-improvement. Additionally, because of the increased competition, the new promotion policy improves the overall selection process by ensuring the best qualified Soldiers are selected for promotion from a list of fully qualified Soldiers.

The Army's intent with the policy changes is threefold, Purcell said. The first intent is to improve Army readiness by addressing skill and grade shortages, the second is to enhance promotion rates, and the third is to further develop Soldiers.

The refined policies ensure fully qualified, quality Soldiers who meet Army standards, are afforded promotion opportunities. Conversely, the same policy denies continued service to those who demonstrate no potential increased responsibility.

"This strengthens our Army and our NCO Corps," Purcell said.

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VERSE OF THE DAY

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to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

John 15:13

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Avoid rooted problem: agronomist urges people to save Ash trees

By Kalene Lozick
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Emerald green beetles are causing an epidemic in ash trees. The infestation began in the East Coast and is now turning westward.

"We are up against the clock, since the emerald ash borer has now infested eastern states and is just a county or two away from Riley and Geary counties," said Theresa de la Garza, historic architect and cultural resource manager, Conservation Branch, Directorate of Public Works - Environmental Division.

The emerald ash borer, also known as *Agrilus planipennis*, is a beetle with an emerald green shell and a purplish red abdomen. The beetle is smaller than a penny and is originally from Asia.

According to a pest alert published by the Kansas Department of Agriculture Plant Protection and Weed Control, the larva is the root of the problem.

"Larval feeding in the tissue between the bark and sapwood disrupts transport of nutrients and

water in a tree, eventually (causing) branches and the entire tree to die," said KDA Plant Protection and Weed Control alert. "Tens of millions of ash trees in forest, rural and urban areas have already been killed or are heavily infested by this pest."

The Fort Riley Emerald Ash Borer Response and Readiness Plan is in the works. No draft has been finalized yet but the purpose of the plan is to identify agencies and partners within Fort Riley that will be working to control the future infestation of emerald ash borers within post boundaries, according to the draft.

"We (Fort Riley) are working on a plan to begin removing ash trees at Fort Riley, preemptively, which will allow us to spread out the cost of removing them," de la Garza said.

John Barbur, agronomist and certified forester, Conservation Branch, DPW - Environmental Division, said he and his team are getting ready for the impact of the insect on Fort Riley.

"The beetles will get here by their natural spread, but one of the ways that people really ramp up the spread is by moving infested logs and firewood around the country," Barbur said.

So far the beetle has infested 30 Northeastern states, two Canadian provinces and Eastern Kansas counties — approximately 100 million trees, Barbur said.

Eastern counties within Kansas already infested are Atchison, Doniphan, Douglas, Jefferson, Johnson, Leavenworth, Shawnee and Wyandotte.

The beetle moves from county to county by people purchasing firewood outside their county. Due to this, Barbur encourages people to avoid buying ash tree firewood, especially bundles within the eight quarantined counties.

"Only use firewood from the area you live or area where you are camping," he said. "Don't move firewood out of the area in which it was growing or where it is found. People have spread this pest by hundreds of miles just by moving a little firewood around."

Ash trees cover a lot of ground throughout on-post residences and woodlands.

"We will have this out in our woodlands because we have ash trees in our woodlands," he said. "We have inventory information that shows the trees scattered and in little pockets ... but we are looking at a couple hundred ash trees in our forest areas."

In the non-housing areas, Barbur said, from a tree survey completed by his team in November 2016, there are approximately 1,200 ash trees on post. From the same survey, there are approximately 500 ash trees in the housing areas specifically.

"What we are going to do is remove some of the ash trees that are not in really good shape," he said. "If we can get rid of 20 to 30 percent of them, we can spread out the cost of removal that we will have to deal with over multiple years. So we can make it a little easier to deal with right away."

The most important message Barbur wants to get out to the public is to not burn or use firewood from the eight infested Kansas counties.



The ticket booth at the entrance of the Main Post Theater in Historic Main Post stands as the centerpiece of for when Soldiers enter the new Education Facility. The theater is one of many historical buildings at Fort Riley the Environmental Division oversees during construction.

Main Post Theater to be new education place

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

The Main Post Theater with its limestone exterior and history dating back to 1932. Due to the building's historical past, the Directorate of Public Works partnered with the external regulator, Kansas State Historic Preservation Office, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City, Missouri, District to maintain the building's historical shell while modernizing the interior for an Education Facility.

"As a historic building, we must make every attempt to consider the historic integrity of the building in the redesign," said Theresa de la Garza, historic architect and cultural resources manager, Conservation Branch, Directorate of Public Works — Environmental Division.

Main Post Theater had a redesign in the 1950s and a major change in the late 1960s to early 1970s, she said. The building remained in operation through most of the 1980s.

"Unfortunately, the original function of the theater, with its

very large sloped floor and stage area, didn't lend itself well to repurposing," de la Garza said. "In dramatically changing the function and breaking up the very large historic space, we were facing what is classified as an 'adverse effect' to the historic property. No project could move forward without mitigating these effects and negotiating a resolution with the Kansas State Historic Preservation Officer, who acts as our external regulator."

With collaboration efforts between DPW's project managers, Educational Services staff and the USACE design team a solution was designed to create an interior shell that accommodated the modernized needs of an Education Facility while maintaining the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office requirements.

"The design allowed for preservation of nearly all the historic fabric related to the theater," de la Garza said. "Much of it will be encapsulated, as the design calls for classrooms to be constructed within the auditorium."

Classrooms that Fort Riley proposed they'd be converted into nursing classrooms with sinks and other amenities, she said.

Marta Oliveras, administrative support specialist with Education Services will manage the facility once completed. She said the facility will provide more than just nursing education programs.

"All of our nursing classrooms require sinks and at this point we have one," Oliveras said. "In order to make more classrooms available, we decided to have that building remodeled with sinks for that purpose. But no one building is designated for one type of use."

Oliveras said Fort Riley has approximately six educational buildings she oversees. These buildings are scattered throughout the installation. With new classrooms at the Main Post Theater Education Services will have more of a centralized core for Soldiers, she said.

Oliveras was part of the planning process. She said the design team kept her included

throughout preliminary design.

"They keep us involved in the process (by asking) what we need (and) what we want," she said.

The new floor will repurpose the auditorium into classrooms.

"The auditorium will have a built-up level floor from the back all the way to the stage, with classrooms off a central hallway spine," de la Garza said. "To minimize the (adverse) effects, we created new ADA compliant bathrooms as part of the new construction within the auditorium and preserved the 1930s era bathrooms with art deco signage. We accomplish the key mitigation through reconstruction of the canopy and ticket booth to its 1932 appearance. We may install 'movie poster' cases on the exterior walls."

Much of the original furniture, like an old vault that once held movie film, will remain in the building, along with the projection room on the second floor that has original film clips, said Paul Cavanaugh, architect, Engineering Services Division, DPW.

Oliveras said she is very excited for the new space.

'First Lightning' qualifies in Poland



Pfc. Ricardo Coronado, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, carries a 155-millimeter artillery round during Atlantic Resolve near Torun, Poland Dec. 6. Atlantic Resolve is a U.S. endeavor to fulfill NATO commitments by rotating U.S.-based units throughout the European theater to deter aggression against NATO allies in Europe.

Story and photo by Sgt. Jazmin Jenkins
22ND MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

POWIDZ, Poland — Field artillery Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, conducted battery qualifications training near Torun, Poland, Dec. 5 to 7.

The training provided an opportunity for the battalion's command team to evaluate each battery's capabilities and efficiency to support the brigade commander's intent.

"This qualification shows we can provide fires on time, accurately and with as much violence possible," said Capt. Billy Atwood, commander of Battery B, 1st Bn., 7th FA Regt.

A firing crew consists of four Soldiers, with a chief who is usually the highest ranking and receives the firing order from the commander.

"When the mission comes down from the commander, I verify ammunition, safety, azimuth (and) emplacement of the round, among other things," said Staff Sgt. Michael Vacanti, crew chief assigned to Battery B, 1st Bn., 7th FA Regt.

The 24 year old has been a field artillery Soldier for more than five years and says he has loved every second of his job. Vacanti said being certified tells higher echelons this battery is combat ready for providing accurate and lethal fire.

The training qualification took place at a Polish training area designated for high explosive artillery detonation. Poland, a U.S. ally, was able to see the U.S. Army's fires capabilities as the battalion conducted their annual qualification.

"We get to show our host nation what we are capable of and how we can help them in the case of a conflict," Atwood said.

Atwood said training like this allows both nations to see each other's tactics, techniques and procedures, making it possible for adaptability to reach a common goal.

The "Dagger" brigade, based out of Fort Riley, Kansas, is deployed to Europe in support of Atlantic Resolve. Atlantic Resolve is a U.S. endeavor to fulfill NATO commitments by rotating U.S.-based units throughout Europe.

"Our guys are happy to be here and the training is outstanding," Atwood said. "This is an awesome opportunity to train the way we are supposed to fight."

MEDICAL Continued from page 1

"This was a great opportunity for both of us to learn different treatment techniques and even learn how to use each other's equipment," Jackson said. "One example is, we have different (intravenous) devices, which inject vital liquids directly into the veins. They taught us how to use theirs and we did the same thing for them ... So, now when they go to Kosovo, they will actually be able to use the IV that Americans use in case something ever happens."

The 25th Bde. is expected to have a U.S. military force reinforce the company in Kosovo as a quick reactionary force. The training they received from Troop C will help increase their survivability given their increased proficiency in performing medical treatment in a deployed environment.



COURTESY PHOTO

Cpl. Cedric Jackson, Troop C, 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, assists a Hungarian Soldier in applying tape to secure a fluid administration tube to a simulated casualty during a combat life saver course U.S. Soldiers led Dec 11 to 12. The training was intended to help prepare the Hungarian Soldiers for their upcoming deployment to Kosovo.

WREATHS Continued from page 1

"(It's important) to remember veterans because they fought in world wars and without them, we wouldn't be free right now," Tucker said of the event.

As the final wreaths were placed upon graves and the crowds of volunteers began to scatter, one person remained. She scoured the rows of wreaths and straightened each one that was out of line. Her eyes were bloodshot and glossy with tears.

"I guess (this is important to me) because my father served in World War II and how they served our country, the different wars they were in and the making of their country and the founding of this country — the making and preserving of the freedoms of this country, that's what each of them have done and I am just so grateful," Sharon Greene, Wreaths Across America volunteer from Riley, Kansas. "We are so blessed for the many freedoms that we have."

Volunteers like Greene could be found throughout the cemetery during the event and while many of them may not have served, they attended to show their appreciation for those who did, Greene said.

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Transitioning Soldiers learn basics of Veterans Affairs home loan application

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

Preparing to buy a home, whether it's the first time or the fifth time, can be a long process that comes with concerns, misinformation and questions regarding loans. To help with these, staff from the USO Fort Riley Pathfinder program partnered with loan officers from Prime Lending to host a workshop for 21 transitioning Soldiers about the common misconceptions and information regarding a Veteran Affairs mortgage loan Dec. 13 at the USO Fort Riley center.

"We had a need based upon our clients' requests and needs," said Crystal Bryant-Kearns, USO Pathfinder site manager. "We have several different workshops we offer through USO Pathfinder. We partnered with our partner agencies who support our service members in those pillars that we provide support in, such as employment and education. This one just happened to be housing."

Attendees received a 90-minute crash course on the basics of a VA loan, as well as a few steps in the home buying process to prepare them for home ownership after leaving the military. The small group setting encouraged open discussion throughout the presentation, and attendees could have their concerns or areas of confusion addressed quickly.

"There were lots of questions and when Soldiers and their spouses are asking questions, I know that they're fully engaged," Bryant-Kearns said.

Master Sgt. Ron Townsend, Medical Activity, attended the workshop. He said he is preparing to retire and he and his wife plan to stay in the area surrounding Fort Riley. With his retirement approaching, they're now looking to buy a home.

"I've been to other workshops, but it's been awhile," Townsend said. "This one was pretty straightforward and they answered a lot of questions during the presentation, blew some of the myths out of the water like the VA doesn't require a credit score, which some lenders will tell you that they do and that's not true."

Townsend, who heard about the workshop while he was going through



Susanna Ruder, loan officer for Prime Lending, talks to an audience of 21 transitioning service members and their spouses during a Veterans Affairs mortgage loan workshop hosted by the USO Pathfinder program Dec. 13 at the USO Fort Riley center. Attendees received a 90-minute crash course on the basics of a VA loan, as well as a few steps in the home buying process to prepare them for home ownership after leaving the military.

the Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program, said he gained a lot of new information about VA loans and the home buying process despite having attended other workshops.

"The big takeaway I think is get started now," he said. "If you're thinking of buying a house in six months or a year, touch bases (with lenders) and get started ... They can do some financial counseling with you too to improve your credit score."

Susanna Ruder, loan officer for Prime Lending, led the presentation and met with Soldiers afterward to provide them additional information. Whenever she meets with clients or speaks at workshops, she said she hears several recurring rumors about VA loans that aren't true.

"They think we are the VA, we are not — we are just loan officers," she said. "They think that they cannot have more than one VA loan at a time, which is false. They think they can't use their VA loan more than once. They think VA actually comes out and looks at their house — all of those things are just misconceptions along the way. Another misconception is they think that they don't have to pay any

closing costs because they're a veteran — that's not true. Closing costs are a part of the loan process."

She said it's rumors like these that make it important to her to have workshops, keep her clients well informed and take the fear out of the home buying process.

"It takes the scary out of everything," Ruder said. "It gives them the knowledge, which therefore in turn gives them the power. Buying a home should be a good experience, it should never be an awful experience. We want them to feel good about us and the about the process."

Before buying a home, Ruder said it's important to contact a lender and get pre-qualified; never rush into buying a home; ask as many questions as possible — there are no bad or dumb questions; and don't be shy about using a VA loan.

"They have earned this entitlement from VA and it is such a good loan and that they should certainly take advantage of the benefits they are offered," she said.

Bryant-Kearns said USO Pathfinder is planning to hold additional VA loan workshops throughout 2018, though dates have not been set. She added they have monthly workshops on different topics, including employment. All workshops hosted by USO Pathfinder are catered toward transitioning service members.

"Every month we are offering a workshop within one of the eight pillars that our program supports with its resources," she said. "We provide services focused on transitioning service members and their families; however, there are wonderful partners that we have right on this installation who also provide workshops."

She said she is grateful USO Pathfinder has close working relationships with other Fort Riley organizations such as SFL-TAP and Army Community Service to assist transitioning and active-duty service members with all their needs.

"We are all here for service members and their families and we all want to work together to support them, whether they are active duty or transitioning and I think there are a lot of great workshops across the post that people should take advantage of," Bryant-Kearns said.

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.

New Year's facts from the Sexual Harassment and Assault Reporting and Prevention office:

- For the past few years, from 7 to 12 percent of all SHARP reports are from assaults that happen New Year's Eve
- Too much alcohol can turn good intentions into bad decisions. Have a plan to stay safe
- Just because they didn't say "no" doesn't mean they said "yes"
- If you need help there are two ways to get it. Both include healthcare and counseling:
 1. Restricted reports do not involve the chain of command or provide a means for prosecution
 2. Unrestricted reports include the ability to prosecute and involve the chain of command
- Survivors of sexual assault don't have to face the judicial process alone. A representative from the Special Victim's Council will walk with the survivor through the entire process
- There is someone from Fort Riley at the other end of the phone 24/7; call 785-307-9338

Your SHARP team wants you to know that if something feels wrong to you — then it is wrong. Healing from an assault takes more than time. For more information about available resources, call the SHARP office at 785-239-2277.

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RILEY ROUNDTABLE

How do you plan to ring in the New Year?



"In Miami, Florida because that is my hometown."

PVT. JORDAN DE LA CRUZ
MIAMI, FLORIDA

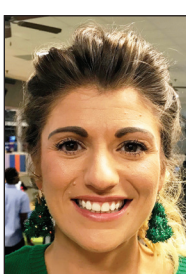
41st Engineer Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



"It's my b-day so I plan on spending my birthday with people - with a lot of friends and family."

SPC. SAMUEL MATTHEW
ARMADA, MICHIGAN

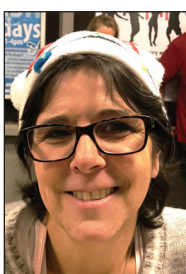
101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division



"Stay at home and enjoy drinks with my neighbors and family."

STEPHANIE BOOTHE
CHRISMAN, ILLINOIS

Wife of Capt. Phillip Boothe, U.S. Army Manhattan Recruiting Company



"Stay at home and watch ball drop in Times Square NYC."

LISA-MARIA MANNING
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Dental assistant, Dental Activity



"Stay at home with my husband and two cats."

SGT. RITA M. PANG
PORTLAND, OREGON

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Infantry Division Artillery, 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

Toys can injure; use care when selecting for gifts

Ronald Clasberry
GARRISON SAFETY OFFICE

With the holiday season, it is important to make safety a priority when making our holiday toy purchases. Toys and games are tons of fun for kids and adults. Whether your kids are working on a puzzle, playing with building blocks or even inventing their own games, here are a few things to think about to help them stay safer and have a blast.

According to the Safe Kids Worldwide website, in 2015, 188,400 children under the age of 15 were seen in emergency departments for toy-related injuries. Think about it: that's 516 kids every day. More than a third of those injured were children 5 and under.

The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission requires labels to be on all toys marketed for children from 3 to 6 years old if the toys pose a choking hazard to children under age 3. These labels tell consumers two critical things — a toy is not safe for younger children and why it is not safe.

Before the CPSC issued these labeling requirements, it was more difficult for consumers to know certain toys they bought for older children could be a danger to younger kids.

Parents and gift-givers can help prevent toy-related injuries and deaths by always reading labels and being safety conscious. The following tips will help you choose appropriate toys this holiday season — and all year round:

- Warning labels: make sure you read and follow all warnings associated with the toys you purchase. Warning labels usually warn if a toy poses choking hazards for young children due to small parts. Electric toys also have warning labels.

- Chargers and adapters: charging batteries should be supervised by adults. Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to children.
- Check for sharp edges and points: this is especially important for younger children since they have a tendency to put things into their mouths or into their eyes. There is always a danger of falling on top of the toy while playing, which may cause injury.
- Projectile toys: toys like air rockets, darts and sling shots are for older children. Improper use of these toys can result in serious eye injuries.
- Check if the toy has cords or strings attached: there is always a danger of the cord getting entangled into a loop which may pose strangulation hazards to a child.
- Avoid toys with small parts: never buy a toy that has small or loose parts that can come unattached for younger children below the ages of three. Younger children have a tendency to swallow things, which can pose a choking hazard.
- Make sure the toy is sturdy and strong: it is important to check to see if the toy you are buying is built of strong shatter proof material. In case of any falls or accidents, the toy should not break into pieces with sharp edges.
- Riding toys: toys such as skateboards and in-line skates go fast and falls could be deadly. Helmets and safety gear should be sized to fit.
- Check if the toy is too loud: check if the noise levels are tolerable and the toy has volume control. Too loud toys can permanently damage the sensitive hearing of children.

- Make sure the toy is non-toxic: If you are buying toys like crayons, art supplies, or any liquid containing toys, make sure that the toys do not contain toxic chemicals. You can check the labels to make sure they are safe in case of accidental ingestion.

Finally, babies and toddlers have additional safety concerns because they like to pull all toys in their mouths. In addition to choking hazards, many common household toys, especially those made with plastic, can contain hazardous chemicals. Soft, flexible plastics often contain phthalates and the harder plastics can contain Bisphenol-A, both of which have been linked by some researchers to cancer, hormone disruption and developmental problems in children.

Also, toys that are painted or have a sealant can include lead and other heavy metals, which can cause serious impairments in babies and children's developing brains. Other toxic chemicals found in some toys include cadmium, polyvinyl chloride, mercury, arsenic, antimony, chromium, tin and bromine.

The best defense against unsafe toys is staying informed. There are several databases you can check prior to purchasing Christmas toys that can help you verify if the toy is safe for your children. The websites are:

- Recalls: Consumer Product Safety Commission www.cpsc.gov/ and www.recalls.gov/
- Consumer Protection: www.saferproducts.gov
- Lead and heavy metals: www.HealthToys.org
- Product safety: www.kidsindanger.org

Let's keep our kids safe by making sure we give them safe toys. For more information, call the Garrison Safety Office at 785-240-0647.

US District Court Results for Fort Riley

OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE
ADVOCATE

United States District Court at Fort Riley is part of the United States Federal Court system for the District of Kansas. The court handles all traffic tickets issued to Soldiers and civilians on Fort Riley and all criminal cases against civilians.

OCTOBER

Oct. 5

Chere N. Dimos of Fort Riley pleaded guilty to assault. District Court sentence: 1 year probation and \$25 special assessment.

Mia C. Jennings of Fort Riley pleaded guilty to theft of government property. District Court sentence: \$8.68 restitution and \$25 special assessment.

Mia C. Jennings of Fort Riley pleaded guilty to Possession of Marijuana. District Court sentence: 1 year probation and \$25 special assessment.

Trayveon M. Carrigan of Fort Riley pleaded guilty to Interfering with law

enforcement. District Court sentence: \$25 special assessment.

Oct 19

Jacqueline M. Crowder of Abilene, Kansas, pleaded guilty to criminal trespass. District Court sentence: \$10 special assessment.

Jeffrey E. Crowder of Abilene, Kansas, pleaded guilty to violation of security regulations. District Court sentence: \$25 special assessment.

Breanna M. Wigal of Fort Riley pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. District Court sentence: \$100 fine and \$5 special assessment.

Kaylee Ann O'Connor of Fort Riley pleaded guilty to driving while license is suspended or revoked. District Court sentence: \$200 fine and \$10 special assessment.

October Courts-Martial Results

On Oct. 26 at a General Court Martial convened at Fort Riley, Sgt. Jerome C. Smith, United States Army, was convicted by a military panel composed of officer and enlisted

members, contrary to his pleas, of one specification of absence without leave, one specification of resisting arrest, one specification of drunken operation of a vehicle, one specification of larceny, two specifications of assault consummated by battery, and one specification of fleeing the scene of an accident, in violation of Articles 86, 95, 111, 121, 128 and 134, of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice. The accused was acquitted of one specification of willfully disobeying a superior commissioned officer, in violation of Article 90, UCMJ. The members sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of Enlisted-1 and to be confined for 170 days.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 2

Precious N. Robinson of Fort Riley pleaded no contest to battery. District Court sentence: \$200 fine and \$10 special assessment.

Nov. 16

Thomas J. Boyer of Palls, Idaho, pleaded guilty to criminal

trespass. District Court sentence: \$100 fine and \$10 special assessment.

Raynell R. Bracey of Fort Riley pleaded guilty to driving while license is suspended or revoked. District Court sentence: \$100 fine and \$10 special assessment.

Priya B. Lofton of Junction City, Kansas, pleaded guilty to speeding. District Court sentence: \$45 fine and \$30 special assessment.

November Courts-Martial Results

On Nov. 9 at a General Court-Martial convened at Fort Riley, Spc. Lonnie L. Lovett, United States Army, pleaded and was found guilty by a military judge to one specification of larceny over \$500, one specification of mail taking and one specification of mail opening, in violation of Articles 121 and 134, UCMJ. The military judge sentenced the accused to be confined for 12 months, reduction to the lowest enlisted grade and to be discharged from the service with a bad conduct discharge.

| | Friday, Dec. 22 | Saturday, Dec. 23 | Sunday, Dec. 24 | Monday, Dec. 25 | Friday, Dec. 29 | Saturday, Dec. 30 | Sunday, Dec. 31 | Monday, Jan. 1 |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| DFMWR Headquarters | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| Army Community Service | 8am-4pm | Closed | Closed | Closed | 8am-4pm | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| Soldier + Family Assistance Center Center | 7am-4pm | Closed | Closed | Closed | 7am-4pm | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| CDCs (all) | 5:45am-6pm | Closed | Closed | Closed | 5:45am-6pm | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| CYS Parent Central | 8am-5pm | Closed | Closed | Closed | 8am-5pm | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| School-Age Centers | 5:45am-6pm | Closed | Closed | Closed | 5:45am-6pm | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| Youth Center | 1-11pm | 2-11pm | Closed | Closed | 1-11pm | 2-11pm | Closed | Closed |
| Fitness Center - Craig | 1-8pm | 1-8pm | 11am-6pm | Closed | 1-8pm | 1-8pm | 10am-6pm | Closed |
| Fitness Center - Leonard | 10am-5pm | 10am-5pm | 10am-5pm | Closed | 10am-5pm | 10am-5pm | 8am-6pm | Closed |
| Fitness Center - Long | 8am-4pm | 8am-4pm | 8am-4pm | Closed | 8am-4pm | 8am-4pm | 10am-5pm | 9am-5pm |
| Fitness Center - King Field House | 5am-8pm | 8am-8pm | 8am-4pm | Closed | 5am-8pm | 8am-8pm | 8am-4pm | Closed |
| Fitness Center - Robinson | noon-7pm | noon-7pm | 11am-6pm | Closed | noon-7pm | noon-7pm | 10am-6pm | Closed |
| Fitness Center - Whitside | 9am-6pm | 9am-6pm | 9am-5pm | Closed | 9am-6pm | 9am-6pm | 9am-6pm | 9am-5pm |
| Pool - Eyster | 5am-6pm | Closed | Closed | Closed | 5am-6pm | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| Animal Shelter + Adoption Facility | 10am-6pm | 10am-3pm | 10am-3pm | Closed | 10am-6pm | 10am-3pm | 10am-3pm | Closed |
| Arts + Crafts | Closed | 9am-4:30pm | Closed | Closed | Closed | 9am-4:30pm | 9am-4:30pm | Closed |
| Auto Skills | 9am-5pm | 9am-5pm | Closed | Closed | 9am-5pm | 9am-5pm | Closed | Closed |
| Leisure Travel Services | 10am-5pm | Closed | Closed | Closed | 10am-5pm | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| Library | 11am-6pm | 11am-6pm | Closed | Closed | 11am-6pm | 11am-6pm | Closed | Closed |
| Outdoor Adventure Center | 9am-5pm | Closed | Closed | Closed | 9am-5pm | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| Outdoor Adventure Snack Bar | 11am-1:30pm | Closed | Closed | Closed | 11am-1:30pm | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| Custer Hill Bowling Center | 11am-12am | 11am-12am | noon-6pm | Closed | 11am-12am | 11am-12am | 11am-1am | Closed |
| Riley's Conference Center | 9am-4:30pm | Closed | Closed | Closed | 9am-4:30pm | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| Warrior Zone | 11am-11pm | 11am-11pm | 11am-11pm | 8am-9pm | 11am-11pm | 11am-11pm | 11am-1am | 11am-9pm |

Hours are subject to change. Please visit our website at riley.armymwr.com or follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/rileymwr for updates.

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Jan. 12

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FORT RILEY

COL JOHN D. LAWRENCE CSM JAMES L. COLLINS

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Tides collide as talk of merger between Riptides, Marlins swim teams take float



Parents of swimmers in the recreational swim team Riptide, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, meet for a question and answer session with Head Coach Richard Taylor, Manhattan Marlins Swim Team, and Board President Eileen Hayden, board of directors for Manhattan Marlin Swim Team, Dec. 12. The session helped inform parents on the merger opportunity to expand the Riptides and compete under a USA Swimming Team.

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

Aquatics Program staff from the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation made waves during a parent question and answer session with the Manhattan, Kansas, Marlins Swim Team as a new partnership develops between them and the Riptides, DFMWR's recreational swim club, Dec. 12.

Judy Gardner, aquatics assistant program manager, said the transition over to the Marlins is not a requirement to the swimmers, only a suggestion if the children, ages 6 to 18, want to compete.

"It is open to the parents to do what they want," Gardner said. "We are encouraging it just because the way the Riptides are right now as a recreational swim club, we don't do any formal competitions as the way the Marlins do as a USA Swimming Team."

She said due to the low numbers of Riptide swimmers, it has been hard to transition into a USA Swimming Team.

"With the partnership we will be able to do that," Gardner said. "We are hoping it will be a win-win for both our kids here

at Fort Riley that want to swim competitively. It will be a way for Marlins to grow their team and also meet a need in our community."

The Manhattan Marlins Swim Team will use the facility at Ester Pool for practices so members of the Riptides will continue to practice at the pool.

The question and answer session provided parents of the swimmers in Riptides an opportunity to ask questions directly to Manhattan Marlins Swim Team's Head Coach Richard Taylor and Board President Eileen Hayden.

The parents asked logistical questions like how their child would make the merge from Riptides to Manhattan Marlins and the cost for registration per child.

To begin, Hayden reassured the parents insurance coverage is available per swimmer.

"From a housekeeping point-of-view, to swim on a USA Swim Team you have to be registered with USA Swimming," Hayden said. "The reason is we have insurance if anything were to happen to your swimmer during practice or at a meet, USA Swim covers the insurance."

She continued and said the registration fee is \$70 per swimmer for 12-months. The

average monthly cost would equate to under \$6 per swimmer.

"The registration will last a year," Taylor said. "So it would expire December 2018, if you registered this month."

A requirement to register for the Manhattan Marlin Swim Team is a tryout.

Taylor said he encourages all families to sign-up for a tryout, cautions against guessing what group the swimmer is in for it may be different from their current group in the Riptides.

To sign-up for tryouts, he said they are available during any scheduled Manhattan Marlin Swim Team practice.

With that being said, the process of the partnership is only in the beginning stages.

"Everything right now is just preliminary," Gardner said. "We are in the process in converting our team so that the kids will be able to swim competitively now through the agreement with the Marlins. So this is just getting the word out."

Gardner will send updated information to the parents who currently have a student swimming in the Riptides as soon as information is finalized.

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Employees of the Month for October, November selected at ceremony

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

Firefighter Adam Rothgeb and Sgt. Johnny Cornejo, both of the Directorate of Emergency Services, were selected as Employees of the Month for October and November respectively during the Garrison Awards Ceremony at Fort Riley Garrison Headquarters Dec. 15.

Rothgeb was selected from a field of four candidates including Deane Anderson, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Todd Dies, Resource Management Office and Joshua Kegley, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

Cornejo was selected from a field of three candidates including Brenda Switzer, DFMWR and Larry Taggart, DPTMS.

Also recognized was Taylor Ferrarin of DFMWR, who received the Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for service to the directorate from January 2017 through September 2017.

Rothgeb corrected an information shortfall that affected over 1,400 fire hydrants at Fort Riley; Ogden, Kansas; and Junction City, Kansas. He assumed the responsibility of contacting public works to update location information for the hydrants for mutual aid response information. In doing so, he corrected water requirements for high priority and high hazard facilities thus insuring accurate information was presented for a fire department risk assessment survey.



Sgt. Johnny Cornejo of the Directorate of Emergency Services receives his Employee of the Month October award from Col. John D. Lawrence, Fort Riley garrison commander, Dec. 15 at garrison headquarters.

“We have map books with hydrant locations,” said Fire Chief Ric Seward, Fort Riley Fire and Emergency Services. “And if the hydrant location isn’t accurate then the map book isn’t accurate. And in the event of a fire, if the locations aren’t accurate you’re starting off on the wrong foot in a fire because you’re establishing your water supply based on that map. So send a fire engine company to the wrong end of the building and you just set yourself up for failure. Now some those

hydrant locations were off only a few feet but Adam’s the kind of guy, with attention to detail, he wanted to pinpoint the exact location. And he did the same thing with Junction City and Ogden so, for our mutual aid response, if we are going to a structure fire we have that accurate information and the crews in route have that information.”

While serving as Visitor Control Center supervisor, at approximately 12:50 p.m. Nov. 22, Cornejo took action that allowed VCC

operations staff to process 151 access passes in approximately two hours, all with proper vetting.

The action came after Cornejo recognized visiting family members coming to the post on Thanksgiving weekend would overwhelm the staff. He notified DES leadership and recommended an authorization for special access procedures and subsequent reassignment of personnel to maximize throughput capabilities.

“His feat on the 22nd, to put into perspective, when we had the Victory Fest we planned for that event and we had three additional personnel on shift,” said Mark Dombrowski, Security Branch Chief, DES. “He was able to surpass the expectations that they had (at Victory Fest).”

Then Dombrowski said to Cornejo, “we’re privileged to have you on board and appreciate everything to do.”

According to the citation that accompanied her award, Ferrarin was presented the Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service “for her exceptional service to the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation from January 2017 through September 2017. Her willingness to step up to the challenge led to her coordinating the biggest festival ever held on Fort Riley. Her leadership and attention to detail were instrumental in the huge success of Victory Fest 2017 and for the Soldiers, families and local community members.”

The citation was signed by Garrison Commander Col. John D. Lawrence.

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'Drumfire' bids farewell to Stephens, welcomes Barajas



Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Barajas, 1st Infantry Division Artillery senior noncommissioned officer, stands at attention in front of the DIVARTY formation shortly after taking responsibility during a Change of Responsibility ceremony at King Field House on Fort Riley Dec. 13. Barajas is a native of Los Fresnos, Texas, and joined the Army in November 1991.

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

A Change of Responsibility ceremony conducted by 1st Infantry Division Artillery doubled as a retirement ceremony for Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Stephens Dec. 13 at King Field House at Fort Riley.

The ceremony had three purposes, said Col. Rory Crooks, DIVARTY commander. It served to bid farewell to Command Sgt. Major Stephens from DIVARTY, but also to wish him well in his retirement from the Army. "The third (reason), Crooks said, "is to welcome the Barajas family to the 'Drumfire' team."

Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Barajas is the incoming senior noncommissioned officer for the DIVARTY.

A special award presentation at the 1st Inf. Div. Museum preceded the ceremony. There, Stephens and his wife, Dawn, received multiple accolades for their combined contributions to DIVARTY, 1st Inf. Div. and the surrounding community.

"I never expected to be here, at this point," Stephens said, before the presentation. "I'm incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to serve, especially in the 'Big Red One.'"

Stephens' advice for new and future Soldiers after nearly 27 years of service was simple.

"Embrace the Army values and treat people like they should be treated," Stephens said. "That's the best advice I can give somebody."

Crooks made certain to thank the outgoing command sergeant major while welcoming the incoming Barajas family.

"Without the Soldier there is no command sergeant major. There is no purpose in the grade or rank without the Soldiers. So for that, I undoubtedly owe you my respect and gratitude and you have it."

**COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
JONATHAN STEPHENS
1ST INFANTRY DIVISION
ARTILLERY**

"We throw around the term 'hero' pretty lightly in this country, I am not going to throw it around lightly," Crooks said. "In my opinion, (Stephens) is an authentic American hero, he is a servant leader and he is a team builder."

Crooks then welcomed Barajas, a Big Red One veteran who previously held

responsibility at 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div.

"Drumfire Soldiers, thank you for your continued sacrifice; your example of servitude is what makes this country great," Barajas said. "Ladies and gentlemen, I stand before you as a humble servant of the profession. I am excited, humbled and grateful for the opportunity to work alongside the Drumfire and BRO teams and to live amongst the great people of the Flint Hills community."

Stephens took a moment to reflect on what gave his career meaning during his farewell remarks at the ceremony.

"My most important charge is the welfare and readiness of the Soldier," Stephens said. "Without the Soldier there is no command sergeant major. There is no purpose in the grade or rank without the Soldiers. So for that, I undoubtedly owe you my respect and gratitude and you have it."

Stephens then went on to praise the DIVARTY organization for their continued pursuit of excellence.

"This small group — ladies and gentlemen — has performed brilliantly during the warfighter, Division Artillery readiness test on three different continents and has greatly enabled two brigades and the division to fight the deep fight, to ensure that our maneuver brothers face the enemy in an unfair fight," Stephens said. "My name is Command Sgt. Maj. Jon Stevens, and I am a Big Red One Soldier for life."

Free gun locks available through Fort Riley Public Health Department, Police Department



Free gun locks are available through the Department of Public Health office and the Fort Riley Police Department Physical Security office. These locks are given out through the Project ChildSafe program to promote firearm safety and awareness. For more information call the police department at 785-239-6767 or public health department at 785-239-7323.

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

Fort Riley Department of Public Health, in partnership with Fort Riley Police Department, will be giving out 100 free gun locks to interested persons.

Erica McGinley, public health nurse at Department of Public Health, said the public health office looked into a program called Project ChildSafe to benefit the Fort Riley community. The initiative to do so came from patient requests. She said she has had several patients come into her office requesting that firearms safety be increased.

"So we sought out Project ChildSafe in order to obtain some resources regarding gun safety," McGinley said.

Project ChildSafe is a National Shooting Sports Foundation program to promote firearm safety through the distribution of education messages and free firearm safety kits to communities across the U.S., according to www.projectchildsafef.org.

However, the public health office was unable to gain access to the program themselves without the help of a local law enforcement agency.

"So we contacted the police department here at Fort Riley and asked them if they would willing to apply to the program," McGinley said. "And they did and very diligently obtained the resources for us and distributed them to us, so we have free gun locks as well as some educational brochures ... without that collaborative effort, we wouldn't have been able to obtain the gun locks for the community's use."

Anybody who visits the Military Police front desk at 219 Custer Ave. or Department

of Public Health office at 7665 Normandy Drive requesting a gun lock will be given a free firearm safety kit. Additionally, the kit will also be given to those who participate in the Healthy Homes course at the public health department. McGinley said providing these opportunities would hopefully increase the gun safety awareness in the area.

"I think it enhances the safety of the Fort Riley community," she said. "It gives us an opportunity to provide education if someone is going to own a firearm on how they can safely own that firearm."

Lt. Jamie Smith, FRPD watch commander, said 25 percent of the locks will be distributed by the MPs through desk sergeants or Physical Security department. The purpose for these locks is to prevent accidental firearm discharges.

"We just don't want that to continue," Smith said. "So as law enforcement, it is part of our purpose to keep the community safe."

According to Smith, many who have guns for safekeeping and protecting their families are not required to go through any type of training prior to owning them. All they have to do is apply for the license. She said having these locks is priceless when it comes to saving a life.

"It's worth a million if you save a life — there's not a value on that price wise," she said. "If something like that is free and will help the community, we will absolutely (support giving these locks out), especially when people don't think about their kids and their kids curiosity."

For more information call the Department of Public Health office at 785-239-7323 or Military Police at 785-239-6767.

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Warrior Transition Battalion Soldier, Warrior Games athlete recognized



Lt. Col. Brady Beall, right, Warrior Transition Battalion commander, presents Staff Sgt. Shawn Runnells with a certificate of achievement for his excellence in athletic achievement Dec. 15 at the WTB Soldier Family Assistance Center. Runnells was recognized for his participation in wheelchair basketball, seated volleyball and air rifle events during the regional Warrior Games trials in Fort Benning, Georgia, in November.

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

Staff Sgt. Shawn Runnells, Warrior Transition Battalion, was recognized for his excellence as an athlete at the WTB holiday party and achievement luncheon Dec. 15 at the Soldier Family Assistance Center on 674 Warrior Road.

He recently competed in the regional Warrior Games trials, a wounded Soldiers Paralympics.

"This last trials that I competed in was wheelchair basketball, seated volleyball and the air rifle," Runnells said. The regional trials was held Nov. 28 to Dec. 8 at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Lindsay Gaudet, WTB adaptive reconditioning program site coordinator, said Runnells is in the running to be added to the Army team for wheelchair basketball.

"He's a good prospect for the Army team after going to the trials and they were really interested in him," she said.

If chosen, he will join the Army wheelchair basketball team and compete against other teams from other branches of service.

Before this, Runnells was an armor crewman tank commander. He later had extensive knee cap surgery, which severely limited his range of motion in his legs in addition to a shoulder injury. He said staying active through sports gave him the chance to continue to pursue his competitive side.

"I'm super competitive in anything that I do," he said. "(Being able to participate in sports) just supports me in this time to just release the energy and everything that I need to be comfortable in this condition that I am in."

Of all the categories of sports he participates in, he enjoys the team events the best.

"I think it's more rewarding to see everybody else on your team happy as a group," he said. "When you can help other people achieve the same thing as a group, to me it's just more rewarding. You know that you helped that person."

Runnells is gearing up for the next Warrior Games trials in of February 2018 in Fort Bliss, Texas. He hopes his perspective on sports can encourage more people in similar situations to participate with him.

"I just really look forward to it and hope I can take more people with me from here," he said. "I see so many people with the same competitive attitude that I have."

Additionally, Runnells also interns for Gaudet's adaptive reconditioning program. She said he is a good addition to her team because of his reliability.

"He assists me and the adaptive team put on all the events and plan them," she said. "He's a good addition to the program because he is very helpful. We can give him a task and he can do it right away. We don't have to worry about anything."

Not present during the luncheon was Staff Sgt. Matthew Olsen, WTB, who was recognized for placing third in the cycling competition during the last regional Warrior Games trials.

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TAKING A SOUTHERN HOLIDAY



Season Osterfeld | POST

ABOVE AND BELOW: A male Snowy Owl soaks up warmth from the ash covered ground of a range recently burned by a wildfire Dec. 14 at Fort Riley. Snowy Owls are an unusual sight at Fort Riley. They spend their summer months above the Arctic Circle hunting prey like lemmings. In winter months, they venture south following prey, but generally stay nearer to the U.S.-Canadian border. Snowy Owls are among the largest owls found in North America.



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— TOP FIVE COMMUNITY LIFE STORIES OF 2017 —



1

Andy Massanet | POST

Part of the 12,466 patrons who attended the 2017 Fall Apple Day festival at Fort Riley Sept. 23 head for the food and beverage tents.

how bout them APPLES

Fort Riley's Fall Apple Day Festival draws more than 12,000

Stories by 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley Garrison PAD staff

The 1st Infantry Division Post's Community Life section marked the involvement of the post in the lives of military families and Kansas citizens. Whether it was welcoming visitors to Fort Riley for Fall Apple Day, creating an outdoor adventure park out of a closed golf course or renewing partnerships between military units and civilian organizations, the "Big Red One" in 2017 was a community partner, neighbor and friend to military families and the Central Flint Hills Region of Kansas.

Here are the top five Community Life stories from 2017:

1. FALL APPLE DAY FESTIVAL

The main community engagement event of the year for the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley was Fall Apple Day Festival, which again served as an open house for citizens to come see their Army. The event set an attendance record for the festival with a final attendance figure of 12,466.

The entertainment began at 9:30 a.m. with the first of three Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley's pie eating contests. HASFR also raised more than \$12,000 from apple pie sales during the festival.

Entertainment included static displays from 1st Inf. Div. units, demonstrations by the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, the 523rd Military Working Dog Detachment, 73rd Military Police Detachment, 97th Military Police Battalion, Soldiers from the Modern Army Combatives Program, as well as plenty of food and beverages.

2. K-STATE COMMUNITY SALUTES 'BIG RED ONE' DURING FORT RILEY DAY GAME IN MANHATTAN

The Flint Hills and 1st Infantry Division together came together in force Nov. 11 for Kansas State University's annual Fort Riley Day

See 2017, page 13



Season Osterfeld | POST

Members of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard perform saber drills during a performance for attendees of the Fall Apple Day festival Artillery Parade Sept. 23. Soldiers of CGMCG dress in period attire and use functioning replica sabers, pistols and rifles during their demonstrations.



Andy Massanet | POST

A crowd of attendees clamor over an M1A1 Abrams tank at the 2017 Fall Apple Day festival at Fort Riley Sept. 23.

TOP FIVE STORIES FROM THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST COMMUNITY LIFE PAGES IN 2017

1. Fall Apple Day Festival draws more than 12,000.
2. K-State community salutes 'Big Red One' during Fort Riley Day game in Manhattan
3. Outdoor Adventure Park Opens
4. Students get safe passage through pedestrian bridge .
5. National Prayer Luncheon with Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, J.C.D., Archbishop of the Archdiocese for Military Services

"We represent first, Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division. We represent old cavalry and the old heritage of Fort Riley. This is not only to ride horses and for people's entertainment, but we want to get the word out that we're here."

PFC. BRYAN LONG | 101ST BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION, 1ST ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

FORT RILEY POST-ITS

PICTURES WITH SANTA

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

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



STORYTIME WITH SANTA

Santa Claus will pay a special visit to the USO Fort Riley Center Dec. 23 to read to kids of all ages.

He'll be doing two reading sessions at 1 and 3 p.m.

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



NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Ring in 2018 at Custer Hill Bowling Center 6 p.m. to midnight Dec. 31. Prepare to glow under the neon lights during an evening of competitive fun.

For more information call the bowling center at 785-239-4366



CHRISTMAS AT THE USO

Celebrate Christmas alongside fellow service members, families and volunteers at the USO Fort Riley Center Dec. 25 from noon to 5 p.m.

There will be food, drinks and gift giveaways throughout the day.

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

COMMISSARY HOLIDAY HOURS

The Commissary will have different hours for the holidays. The hour changes are as follows:

- Christmas Eve - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Christmas Day - Closed
- New Year's Day - Closed

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.



COFFEE CONNECTION

The USO Fort Riley is hosting Coffee Connection, a new spin on Spouses's Sip N Chat. The event will bring spouses together as they sip a cup of joe Jan 10.

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

CARS AND COFFEE

Enjoy waffles, coffee and cars with fellow vehicle enthusiasts the third Sunday of every month at 11 a.m. at the Warrior Zone.

All visitors to the Warrior Zone must be 18 or older. For more information, call 785-240-6618.

DRUG FREE ART CONTEST

Middle school aged children can demonstrate their art skills and drug free lifestyle in the 2017 Fort Riley Drug Free Art Contest hosted by the Army Substance Abuse Prevention Program.

The theme for the contest is "Your future is key, so stay drug free."

All submitted entries to match the theme and be turned in no later than Jan. 4.

Include the child's name and grade on the artwork. For more information, contact ASAPP at 785-239-5075.

AIR FORCE RESERVE RECRUITING

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

CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES HIRING EVENT

A CYS Hiring Event will be held Jan. 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at CYS Parent Central, 6620 Normandy Drive.

Applicants should dress professionally and bring their federal resume, three references, high school/GED or college transcripts, social security card and birth certificate or passport.

For more information, see page 15 of this newspaper or call 785-239-2325.

FORT RILEY REEL TIME THEATER SCHEDULE

Friday, Dec. 22

Coco (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 23

No Showing

Sunday, Dec. 24

No Showing

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.



AQUA ZUMBA CLASS

Looking for a new workout? Check out Aqua Zumba at Eyster Pool.

Classes are 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. View the schedule on the aquatics page at riley.armymwr.com/us/riley/programs/aquatics.

The cost is \$3 per class or \$25 for a 10-class pass. For more information, call 785-239-4854.

FORT RILEY LEISURE TRAVEL

Discount tickets are available for events in the surrounding area as well as major theme park destinations.

Upcoming events with discount tickets include:

Great Wolf Lodge - Kansas City Hotel: Blackout dates apply. Waterpark tickets included for all guests.

B&B Junction City Gem Theater: \$30 value gift card for \$25 good for movie tickets and concessions.

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

And much more!

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

COMMUNITY CORNER

Offering a heartfelt 'thank you' for a job well-done

By Col. John D. Lawrence
FORT RILEY GARRISON COMMANDER

It's the end of the year, a time when we reflect on our accomplishments and look forward to the possibilities in the New Year. As a team — Garrison, 1st Infantry Division and the Flint Hills Region — we have accomplished much, despite some of the obstacles thrown our way. I'm proud and amazed at the amount, and quality, of work we've achieved in 2017.



Colonel Lawrence

The upcoming year will have its own challenges, but I'm confident we will face them head-on and find innovative ways to contribute to the Army's operating concept of winning in a complex world.

Even with turnover of key leaders, a high operations

tempo, increased requirements from headquarters and personnel and funding reductions, we've excelled in a number of areas. Here are just a few examples:

- Awarded the Energy Savings Performance Contract to procure energy savings and facility improvements
- Awarded the Utilities Privatization contract to obtain safe, reliable and efficient utility services
- Opened the modern recycling facility to increase efficiency of material processing operations with the same number of employees
- Received high marks during numerous inspections and accreditations and won multiple awards of excellence
- Implemented the Installation Management Command's Service Culture Initiative
- Celebrated the 1st Infantry Division's 100th anniversary with events, including Victory Fest
- Hosted the Housing the Force training event for high-

level housing executives from around the world

- Supported Soldier training, deployments, rotations and redeployments
- Hosted Fall Apple Day Festival for thousands of visitors
- Opened the renovated Custer Hill Aquatic Park and the Outdoor Adventure Park
- Strengthened our ties with Flint Hills Region by developing several Intergovernmental Support Agreements

I encourage you to browse through this edition of the 1st Infantry Division Post newspaper to read more about some of these highlights from 2017.

From my family to yours, I'd like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous New Year. Stay safe over the holiday period, take some time to relax and recuperate and return refreshed for a fantastic 2018.

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

READY ARMY Fort Riley Mass Warning and Notification System Smartphone App

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

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

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 its 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 rileypwoc@gmail.com or Facebook "Fort Riley PWOC"

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

Check for schedule over Training Holiday weekends

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
FORT RILEY

Happy New Year

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2017 Continued from page 11



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

Staff Sgt. John Hylander, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, leads the Kansas State University football team onto the field at Bill Snyder Family Stadium Nov. 11 as part of Fort Riley Day at K-State. Hylander was selected to lead the team because he is the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for 1st Inf. Div.

football game at Bill Snyder Family Stadium in Manhattan, Kansas.

Staff Sgt. John Hylander, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div. and the "Big Red One" Noncommissioned Officer of the Year led the Wildcats onto the field, and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Carter, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div. and president of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, joined the team captains for the coin toss.

"It's a big honor to be on the same field as the wonderful K-State Wildcats and Bill Snyder," K-State's beloved head football coach, Hylander said. "It's an incredible experience to get to be out here in front of all of these people, get to be so close and meet some of the K-State players."

3. OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PARK OPENS

What used to be the Custer Hill Golf Course was repurposed and transformed into an exciting new Fort Riley Outdoor Adventure Park. Its grand opening was Aug. 26 and attracted more than 1,000 Soldiers and their families to the festivities.

"The fact that we are offering this to the community, to our Soldiers, to our family members is incredible," said 1st Infantry Division Chief of Staff Col. Charles Masaracchia. "Garrison has done a fantastic job with this. I just hope we can get everyone out here to support this and experience this."

Joining Masaracchia were Col. John D. Lawrence, Fort Riley garrison commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Collins, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Riley senior noncommissioned officer.

The facility has ziplines, paintball, family ropes course, low ropes, rock wall, family archery, drone area, driving range and yard games. Coming soon will be additional amenities such as high ropes-team building, foot golf and golf cart rentals.



Kalene Lozick | POST

Jack Shill, son of Spc. Clinton Shill of 601st Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, climbs his way to the finish line of the family ropes course during the grand opening of the Outdoor Adventure Park Aug. 26. Selected park amenities were open to Fort Riley's community, service members and their families between 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 26.



Season Osterfeld | POST

Students of Fort Riley Middle School, representatives of Unified School District 475 and Fort Riley and 1st Infantry Division leadership pose in front of Trooper Pass during the grand opening ceremony Jan. 6 on 1st Division Road in front of the middle school. The pedestrian bridge formally opened with the start of the January school semester and enables students to have safer passage to and from school.

4. STUDENTS GET SAFE PASSAGE THROUGH PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Fort Riley and 1st Infantry Division leadership, representatives of Unified School District 475 and students of Fort Riley Middle

School celebrated the opening of the pedestrian bridge Jan. 6 on 1st Division Road in front of the middle school.

The pedestrian bridge was dubbed "Trooper Pass" after the Fort Riley Middle School mascot the Trooper, said Caite Kendrick,

Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

It was constructed by K&K Industries, Inc. for about \$1 million, and took the place of a cross walk. It provides safety to pedestrians and helps to reduce traffic jams.

5. NATIONAL PRAYER LUNCHEON WITH ARCHBISHOP TIMOTHY P. BROGLIO, J.C.D., ARCHBISHOP OF THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR MILITARY SERVICES

The 1st Infantry Division leadership welcomed Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, archbishop of the Archdiocese for Military Services, to Fort Riley Feb. 22 for the National Prayer Luncheon at Riley's Conference Center.

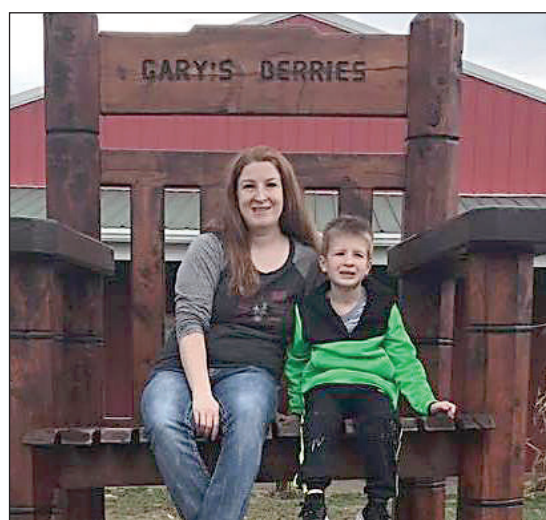


Archbishop Broglio

Welcoming Broglio were Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley acting senior commander and Chap. (Col.) Timothy Walls, Fort Riley Garrison chaplain, as well as a contingent of unit chaplains and a host of clergy from neighboring Catholic communities, including Bishop Edward Weisenburger of the Salina, Kansas, diocese that includes Junction City, Kansas. Linking the past with the present, both Frank — who reminded the 1st Inf. Div. "the most storied division in the Army," is entering its 100th year of service to America — and Broglio pointed toward the concurrent beginnings of the "Big Red One" and religious support of the military.

"I was very pleased last night when I discovered that the division was celebrating its 100th anniversary," Broglio said. "Looking at the Catholic Church's relationship to the military in a formal sense, that (service) also began 100 years ago when Pope Benedict XV assigned auxiliary Bishop Patrick Hayes of New York as responsible for Catholics in the military."

TUESDAY TRIVIA CONTEST



The question for the week of Dec. 19 was: How do you report suspicious activity in and around the installation?

Answer: www.riley.army.mil/Community/iWATCH

This week's winner is Rebecca McMullen.

Pictured above is Rebecca McMullen and Levi.

CONGRATULATIONS REBECCA!

HOLIDAY EXPRESS



Photos by Season Osterfeld | POST

Saige, left, her sister Lily, center, and brother James, all children of Pvt. Gregory Savage, 1st Engineer Brigade, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, pose with Santa Claus at the "Big Red One" Express Dec. 16. Santa Claus paid a visit to the express for kids and adults alike and staff offered sampling of warm mulled wine and other adult beverages.



Spc. Tevin Bradley, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, poses with Santa Claus at the "Big Red One" Express Dec. 16.

Fort Riley Religious Holiday Events

| | | | | |
|-----------|------|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| 12 Dec 17 | 1800 | Lighting the First Light of Chanukah | Jewish | Garrison HQ |
| 24 Dec 17 | 1630 | Christmas Eve Children's Mass | Catholic | Victory Chapel |
| 24 Dec 17 | 1730 | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service | Protestant | Kapaun Chapel |
| 24 Dec 17 | 1800 | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service | Protestant | Main Post Chapel |
| 24 Dec 17 | 2400 | Christmas Eve Midnight Mass | Catholic | St. Mary's Chapel |
| 25 Dec 17 | 0845 | Christmas Day Mass | Catholic | Victory Chapel |
| 25 Dec 17 | 1200 | Christmas Day Mass | Catholic | St. Mary's Chapel |
| 31 Dec 17 | 2200 | Watch Night Service | Gospel | Morris Hill Chapel |

Weekend Service times follow the normal schedule

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Dads hammer down on relational education through workshop

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

Army Community Service held a 24/7 Dad Workshop to educate fathers who want to improve their home relationships with their children and spouses Dec. 11 and 12.

Kariga Pratt, family advocate program specialist, ACS, said the program's primary responsibility is preventing any kind of family violence in the form of spousal or child abuse.

"We do that through a variety of different ways, one of the primary prevention that we do are parenting education classes, marriage enrichment classes and we go out and brief command to work with care providers for the children," Pratt said. "24/7 Dad Workshop is one of the classes that we do."

The first day began with an introduction to the material, primary principals of 24/7 Dad and five areas fathers can evaluate themselves.

"There are five principals to evaluate ourselves in five areas," Pratt said. "The first principal is self-awareness, (the second is) self-care, (third) fathering skills, (fourth) parenting skills and (finally) we have our



Kariga Pratt, family advocate program specialist, Army Community Service, left, educates Spc. Christopher Keeling, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, middle, and Spc. Daquaris Maxwell, 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., right, on what a holistic fathering role looks like during the two day 24/7 Dad Workshop Dec. 11 and 12. The workshop covered five principals of which were self-awareness, self-care, fathering skills, parenting skills and relationship skills.

relationship skills. You evaluate yourself in each one of those skills."

The self-awareness principal is approached with a holistic lens.

"You want to look at self-awareness from a 360-degree holistic perspective, which is not

only physical health or physical awareness," he said. "Military dads kind of understand that, but also (we expand on) emotionally, spiritually, socially and psychologically."

Pratt asked the Soldiers attending the workshop like "what makes them happy and are

they aware of what makes brings sadness?" The idea behind the questions is a person's emotions impact both their spouse and children. The workshop expands on that and analyzes why that connection is important.

"We deal with some of the physical things, many of the

Soldiers are getting four hours of sleep and their dad counterparts in the civilian world are getting seven to eight hours of sleep," Pratt said. "So how sleep deprivation impacts your ability to father. If you are tired all the time, you are going to be more irritable in your decision making, so we try to connect those things."

One father who attended the course was Spc. Christopher Keeling, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

He said his take away from event was from the self-care section of the workbook. He does not want his child to pick up some of his own bad habits.

"I don't want them addicted to soda like I am," Keeling said. "I need to change it now before he starts picking up on that habit himself."

Pratt said every good dad wants to be a better dad. Keeling recognized that through this workshop. He said it is a course new fathers should take.

"I honestly believe, as a new parent, (anyone) coming here should be (in) a class like this," Keeling said. "It is very helpful and this would change the way a lot of society's problem now."

This is a societal problem that is changing with the millennial generation, Pratt said.

"You want to look at self-awareness from a 360-degree holistic perspective, which is not only physical health or physical awareness."

KARIGA PRATT | FAMILY ADVOCATE PROGRAM SPECIALIST, ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE

"I'm not sure if it is more of this class or the millennial mentality, but they are started to look at it in a more holistic perspective," Pratt said.

He said the 24/7 Dad Workshop is easily adaptable for any type of dad.

"I would say it is one of the most comprehensive curriculums for fathering that I have seen," Pratt said. "I think it is easily adaptable for any type of father. Whether you are a biological father, step father, adoptive father, non-custodial father or a single dad. I think it cuts across cultures because the principals of fathering are generally the same no matter which cultural background you come from."

EMPLOYEE POTLUCK



Photos by Kalene Lozick | POST

LEFT: Fort Riley garrison employees load up plates for the annual Employee Holiday Potluck Dec. 14. Employees brought growling bellies and left with smiles as the annual potluck ended with a few pounds added. **RIGHT:** Kirk Hutchinson, public affairs specialist Fort Riley garrison, adds a few sweets to his plate at the Fort Riley garrison Employee Holiday Potluck Dec. 14. Each garrison organization was assigned to bring one meat, sides, fruit, desserts, drinks, plates or cutlery.



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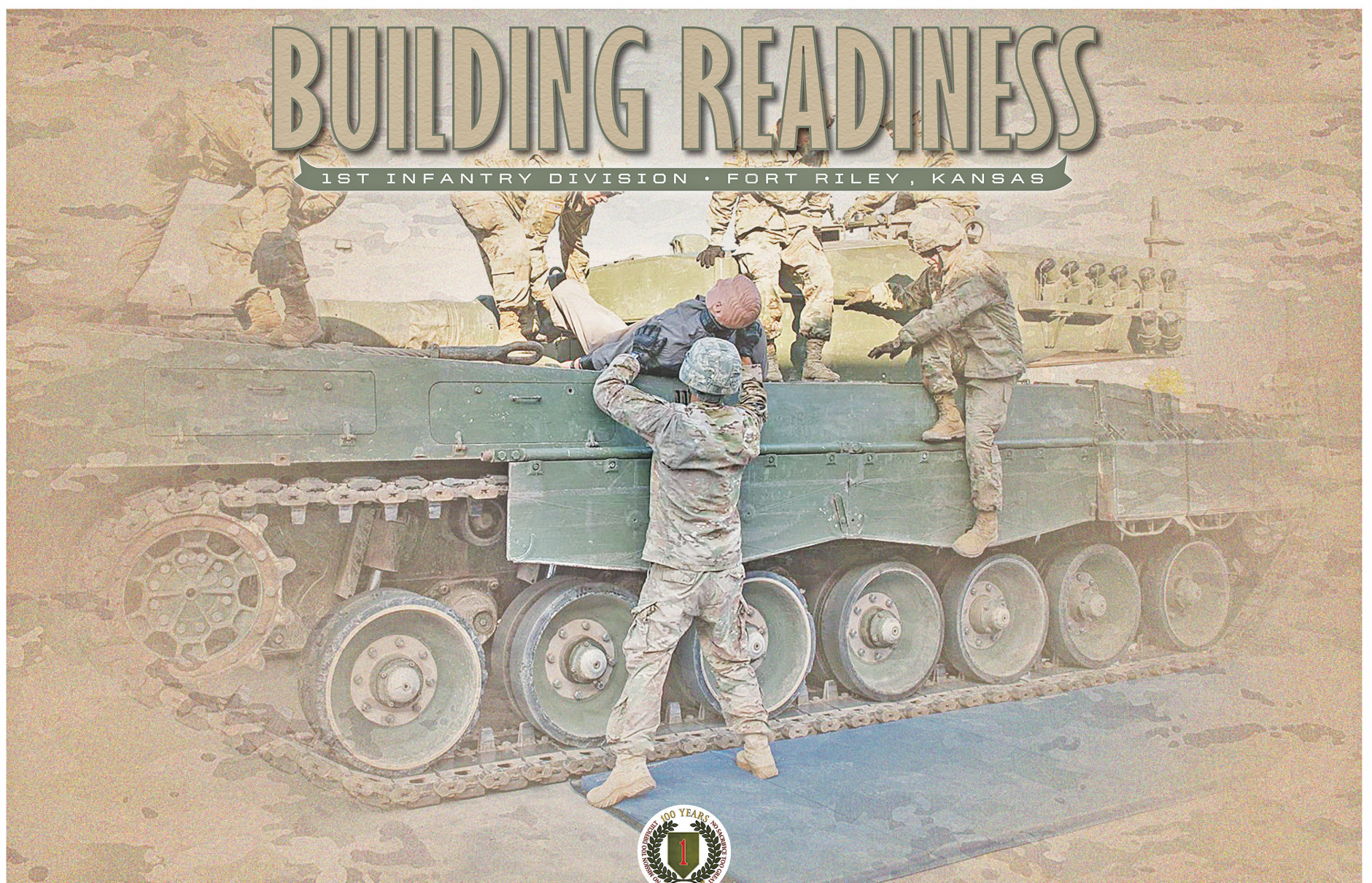




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PACKED HOUSE



Photos by Jorge Gomez | IACH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ABOVE: Cub Scouts Pack 3660 visit with the Emergency Department team Dec. 4 as part of a "Tiger Safe & Smart" badge requirement. The scouts had trained on safety measures like memorizing their address and phone numbers and calling 911. The ED visit functioned as a culminated event to complete the badge's requirements. Pack 3660 is one of two cub scout packs on Fort Riley. Capt. Thomas Holmes, a medical logistics officer with Irwin Army Community Hospital, serves as the Tiger Den Leader of the pack. Kyle Stellflug, an emergency registered nurse, demonstrates how a bed's height can be adjusted to a Cub Scouts pack and their parents.



ABOVE: Kyle Stellflug displays the immediate availability of intravenous fluids for patients inside an emergency department trauma bay. **RIGHT:** The Emergency Department team shows first-grade Cub Scouts how a high-tech device is used when a nurse has difficulty finding a vein on a patient. Lukas Holmes volunteers his hand to demonstrate the ease of finding a vein.



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**FORT RILEY
GUIDE AND DIRECTORY**

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**'Tis the Season: USO Jolly-Days!
December Holiday Fun!**

- Dec. 16-24 — Gift Wrapping Station
- Dec. 16-29 — Hot Cocoa Bar with all of the fixings
- Dec. 17-20 — DIY Holiday Cards & Coloring
-Stop by the USO and enjoy our DIY Cards & Coloring Station!
- Dec. 21 — 3D Snowflake Making, (1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.)
-Advance Registration Required! Visit our Eventbrite Page to Register!
- Dec. 22 — Sugar Cookie Decorating, (12:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.)
-Advance Registration Required! Visit our Eventbrite Page to Register!
- Dec. 23 — Storytime with Santa, (1300 & 1500)
-Advance Registration Required! Visit our Eventbrite Page to Register!
- Dec. 24 — Holiday Movie Marathon
-Surf the channels for one of your favorite holiday movies or check one out from our video library! Popcorn provided.
- Dec. 24 — Holiday Giveaway Entries Begin!
- Each person who visits the USO on Dec 24 and 25 will receive one entry ticket to place in our holiday giveaway drawing!
- Dec. 25 — Christmas Day at the USO!
-Join us for food, drinks, and giveaways!

All activities are available from 1200-1700 unless otherwise noted

Please visit our website for more details!
<https://fortriley.uso.org>



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<https://uso-fr-events.eventbrite.com/>
usofortriley@uso.org

Holiday Hours
Noon to 6 p.m. Dec. 16-Jan. 1
*always 3pm on Fridays
Back to normal hours Jan. 2
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Weekdays
8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays
Noon to 6 p.m. Weekends

**Fort Riley Substance Abuse
Prevention Programs'
2017 Fort Riley Middle School
Drug Free Art Contest**

Enter the 2017 Fort Riley Drug Free Art Contest!

Theme:

"Your Future is Key, So Stay Drug Free"

Rules:

- Create an art project that ties in with the theme listed above.
- Be sure to label art project with name and grade.
- Turn in your artwork to the Fort Riley Middle School office by 4 January 2018

Perfect project to work on during the Holiday Break



Grand Prize for each grade

Kindle Fire 7 Tablet!!



NO DOUGH DINNER



Photos by Season Osterfeld | POST
Service members and dependents grab veggies and dressing to accompany their sloppy joes during the No Dough Dinner Dec. 13 at the Culinary Arts Lab. Once a month, USO Fort Riley and volunteers, like service members from Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, provide a free, hot dinner. No Dough Dinners are generally held shortly before a pay day.



Kids chow down on sloppy joes, chips and veggies during the No Dough Dinner Dec. 13 at the Culinary Arts Lab.



One-year-old Garrett Hayworth, son of Staff Sgt. Jeffery Hayworth, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, wiggles and dances at his bag of chips held by his mother, Katie Hayworth, during the No Dough Dinner Dec. 13.



A Soldier from the 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, team blocks a shot by a player from the 526th Quartermaster Composite Supply Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade during the Holiday Hoops basketball tournament Dec. 16 at Whitside Fitness Center.

Tourney adds twist to holiday celebrations

Annual basketball tournament helps keep morale high

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

Five unit-level teams faced off in the Holiday Hoops basketball tournament Dec. 16 at Whitside Fitness Center.

This was the fourth year the tournament has been held.

“We have the tournament to give our Soldiers more things to do and it promotes health and wellness,” said Renee Satterlee, intramural sports coordinator at Fort Riley, part of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

The tournament is held on weekends to provide Soldiers something to keep them busy and get them acquainted with one another outside of a work setting, Satterlee said.

“These kinds of tournaments benefit our Soldiers because it is unit level, it builds on unit morale and teamwork,” she said.

For one team, keeping busy in their free time prevents them from making possible poor choices down the line.

“We love playing ball,” said 2nd Lt. Marquon Webster, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

“It’s just another opportunity to get out and



A Soldier from the 526th Quartermaster Composite Supply Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, tries to dunk the ball during a game against the 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, during the Holiday Hoops basketball tournament.

“There aren’t too many recreational sports that everybody comes together on. It’s sometimes too cold outside for soccer or flag football. The gym is a stress reliever for a lot of people.”

2ND LT. MARQUON WEBSTER | 2ND GENERAL SUPPORT AVIATION BATTALION, 1ST AVIATION REGIMENT, 1ST COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

run. And also, I have Soldiers on my team I like to keep out of trouble.”

Webster, who also plays on the Fort Riley basketball team, said his team got together for Victory Week and they added a few more players this tournament.

“Everybody knows I play ball, some Soldiers came up to me asking to play and I told

them to come on out,” he said.

Although he said he wishes the restriction of unit level was lifted, he enjoys the tournaments and hopes to see them held more frequently.

“It keeps the morale up on post,” Webster said. “I think we should advertise it more and do it more often. There aren’t too many recreational sports that ev-

erybody comes together on. It’s sometimes too cold outside for soccer or flag football. The gym is a stress reliever for a lot of people.”

In the end, a team from 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div. claimed victory in the tournament.

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— TOP FIVE SPORTS STORIES OF 2017 —

Claiming Victory

Fort Riley Soldiers prove themselves some of the best at home and overseas



Cpl. Samantha K. Braun | U.S. MARINE CORPS

1

ABOVE: Spc. Samuel Kosgei, formerly of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, and first-place finisher of the 41st Marine Corps Marathon, crosses the finish line in Arlington, Virginia. Oct. 30, 2016. Kosgei ran at a five-minute mile pace and finished the race in two hours and 23 minutes. **BELOW RIGHT:** Capt. Mark Gaudet, bib 258, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and “Big Red One” Army Ten-Miler Team captain and coach; and 1st Lt. Tim Nelson, right, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st ABCT, begin running in the Army Ten-Miler race Oct. 8 at the Pentagon. A team of 14 runners from the division represented the Big Red One and Fort Riley in the 33rd annual race.

STAFF REPORT

Whether at home or in foreign nations, sports are an effective builder of teams, communities and esprit de corps. Athletes from the “Big Red One” joined competitions of both national and local import in 2017, representing the 1st Infantry Division and the Army with pride and sending the message of resilience, strength and partnership everywhere they went.

The following are the top five Sports stories in the 1st Infantry Division Post for 2017:

1. FORT RILEY RUNNERS SELECTED FOR WORLD CLASS ATHLETE PROGRAM

Spc. Samuel Kosgei of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, and Spc. Susan Tanui, a dental assistant with Dental Activity, were both selected for the World Class Athlete Program in the spring of 2017.

Kosgei is an accomplished marathon runner and Tanui specialized in the 3,000 meter steeplechase. Both competed for the WCAP team at the Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend in late May in Ottawa, Canada. They were part of nearly 50,000 competitors in that event.

They also were previous members of the Fort Riley Ten-Miler Team. Kosgei finished second in the 33rd Army Ten-Miler Oct. 8, 2016. Tanui, who competed as a member of the Fort Carson, Colorado, team, took first among females at the same event.

2. ‘BIG RED ONE’ TEN-MILER TEAM TRAINS WITH KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY AND COMPETES IN WASHINGTON D.C.

Preparation for the annual Army Ten-Miler at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Oct. 8 began the previous July for 1st Infantry Division Army Ten-Miler team.

By the fall, they were ready to take their performance to another level. On Sept. 26, the Kansas State University athletic program opened its doors to the Soldiers to help in their preparations. That morning, after an hour-long workout at CiCo Park in Manhattan, Kansas, the BRO team met with Phillip Vardiman, athletic training program director at K-State, and Scott Trausch, K-State sports nutritionist, at the K-State Vanier Family Football Complex, for a recovery session and nutritional advice.

K-State has a tradition of steadfast support for BRO Soldiers. The athletic program staff helped Capt. Mark Gaudet, commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., and 1st Lt. Tim Nelson, the executive officer for Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., work with Trausch and

Vardiman in 2015 in preparing for 2016’s Best Ranger Competition.

The work with K-State staff paid off, as a team of 14 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers excelled in Washington, D.C. The group also included the four-person mixed team which finished in first place in the Active Duty Mixed category with a combined time of 4 hours, 6 minutes and 55 seconds. were among 35,000 athletes from around the world and throughout the armed forces in the annual Army Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C. Oct. 8

The five members of the Active Duty Men team placed eighth in their category and five female team members placed 12th in the Active Duty Women’s group.

3. ‘DAGGER’ BRIGADE COMPETES, BONDS WITH POLISH ATHLETES IN POLAND

On Nov. 11, Soldiers from the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, completed the annual Polish Independence Day 10-kilometer run.

Two days earlier, “Dagger” brigade Soldiers played alongside Polish basketball players in an exhibition game in front of an audience of community members in Zary, Poland. The game was also held in celebration of Poland’s Independence Day.

“Everyone was looking out their windows with their children, with their dogs, just cheering every single person on, high fiving people, everyone was taking photos – it made everyone feel like we were part of something bigger than just a race against a clock,” said Spc. Courtney Roth, 82nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div. “Being here in Poland is amazing,” Roth said. “I feel very welcome here.”

The basketball competition drew responses that were just as enthusiastic

“I love Poland,” said Sgt. Demetri Richardson, a wheeled mechanic with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd ABCT, and basketball team member. “I love the country, I love the food and I love the basketball games.”

4. ‘DEVIL’ BRIGADE SOLDIERS CROWNED CHAMPIONS AT COMBATIVE TOURNAMENT IN SOUTH KOREA

Warriors from the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, took the championship of the “Fight Night” combative tournament at Camp Casey, South Korea, Dec. 29, 2016. The Soldiers survived five nights of fighting and 60 individual bouts spread over more than five weeks.

The final round pitted the “Diehard” Soldiers from 1st Eng. Bn. against fellow “Devil” brigade



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

2

TOP FIVE 2017 SPORTS STORIES

1. Fort Riley runners selected for World Class Athlete Program
2. ‘Big Red One’ Ten Miler team trains with Kansas State University and competes in Washington, D.C.
3. ‘Dagger’ brigade competes, bonds with Polish athletes in Poland
4. ‘Devil’ brigade Soldiers crowned champions at combative tournament in South Korea
5. ‘Durable’ brigade names 2017 Tammie Romstad award winner from K-State women’s basketball

See YEAR IN SPORTS, page 18

YEAR IN SPORTS Continued from page 17

Soldiers from "Hamilton's Own," 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment.

"It was a completely phenomenal effort by the Diehard battalion," said Lt. Col. Scott Miller, the battalion's commander. "It was a great effort across the entire team to put this together — and for them to come out and win is just icing on the cake."

"It's awesome," said 1st Lt. Steve Kerns, a platoon leader with 1st Eng. Bn. and a competitor in the light heavyweight division. "We kind of just started this just for fun. Coming out here, we proved that we have the best guys and the best training partners."

5. 'DURABLE' BRIGADE NAMES 2017 TAMMIE ROMSTAD AWARD WINNER FROM K-STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Kayla Goth, a 6-foot 1-inch guard from DeForest, Wisconsin, received the Tammie Romstad Durable Award from Col. Allen T. Cassell, commander of the 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, during the Kansas State University women's basketball awards banquet March 12 at the West Stadium Center in Manhattan, Kansas. It was Goth's second consecutive time winning the award.

The Tammie Romstad award is part of the partnership between the team and the 1st Inf. Div. Sust. Bde., and is awarded to the player who best represents what it means to be a "Durable" Soldier and teammate. It was named after Tammie Romstad, a former Kansas State women's basketball star whose jersey was retired in 2009 when she was inducted into the Kansas State Athletics Hall of Fame.

"It feels awesome," Goth said. "It is something that you can really take to heart because there is a lot of meaning behind it."



3

Spc. Dustin Biven | 22ND MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT
Spc. Courtney A. Roth, a Cleveland, Ohio, native and Soldier with 82nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, runs in the annual Polish Independence Day Run in Zagan, Poland, Nov. 11. The U.S., allies and partners are making strides toward interoperability by continuously training together and implementing innovative solutions to common problems.



4

Staff Sgt. Warren W. Wright Jr. | 1ST ABCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS
ABOVE: Soldiers from the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., compete in the championship round of the 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US Combined Division "Fight Night" combatives tournament Dec. 29, 2016, on Camp Casey, South Korea. After 60 fights over the course of more than five weeks, the "Diehard" Soldiers of the 1st Eng. Bn. were crowned champions of the tournament. RIGHT: Soldiers from the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, hold their championship trophy in the air after being crowned the victors of the 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US Combined Division "Fight Night" combatives tournament on Camp Casey, South Korea Dec. 29, 2016. The "Diehard" Soldiers from 1st Eng. Bn. won the tournament after a battle against fellow "Devil" brigade Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment.



Play it Safe

Happy holidays don't take risks during travel or fun this season



Staff Sgt. Aaron P. Duncan | 1ST INF. DIV. SUST. BDE.
Col. Allen T. Cassell, right, commander of the 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade, presents the Tammie Romstad Durable Award to Kayla Goth during the women's basketball banquet March 12 at the West Stadium Center at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

Post photos, including many that haven't been printed, are on flickr!

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Holiday Lights Sparkle

During Winter Nights

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

The holiday lights are turned up bright for all to see this festive season. There are plenty of opportunities to view these lights, some available as near as the neighborhoods around Fort Riley and some a tad farther.

Recently, Corvias, Fort Riley's on-post housing partner, announced the Holiday Yard of the Month winners. There's a winner in each neighborhood and for more information on who they are and where they're located, visit www.facebook.com/CorviasMilitaryLivingRiley/.

The next closest place to view some lights is the Festival of Lights in Manhattan at 315 S. Third St. The lighted park lauds the tallest artificial Christmas tree in Kansas standing at 65 ½ feet, according to Joey Athon, event organizer for Festival of Lights. The mall area of Blue Earth Plaza comes to life at night and turns the vicinity into a lighted wonderland complete with holiday music and a horse-drawn carriage. For more information, visit www.mhkfestivaloflights.com/.

The Season of Lights display is worth the trip to the land of Oz in Wamego. At City Park, thousands of shimmering lights dazzle the area and its landmarks such as the Old Dutch Mill at 430 Lincoln St. For more information, visit www.visitwamego.com/events/season-of-lights-holiday-happenings.

To the west of Fort Riley is Abilene's annual outdoor holiday lights display. The Annual Christmas Lane has more than 110 outdoor displays and is at 2501 Maple St. It is open from 6 to 9 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday and 6 to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Visitors who come by can even make a phone call to the North Pole from a special phone booth at the lane. For more information visit www.absslc.org/.

Perhaps one of the more stunning displays of holiday lights in the state is in Wichita's botanical garden at 701 Amidon St. Illuminations at Botanica boasts more than a million lights across themed gardens with brightly lit larger-than-life flowers and bugs, ponds glistening with lights that float and move to holiday music, musical maze, traditional display of white lights with more than 25 chandeliers in the woodlands and more.

Illuminations is open from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. every day, except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It is free for children under the age of 3, \$7 for children between ages 3 and 12 and \$10 for adults. For more information visit botanica.org/ or call 316-267-0448.



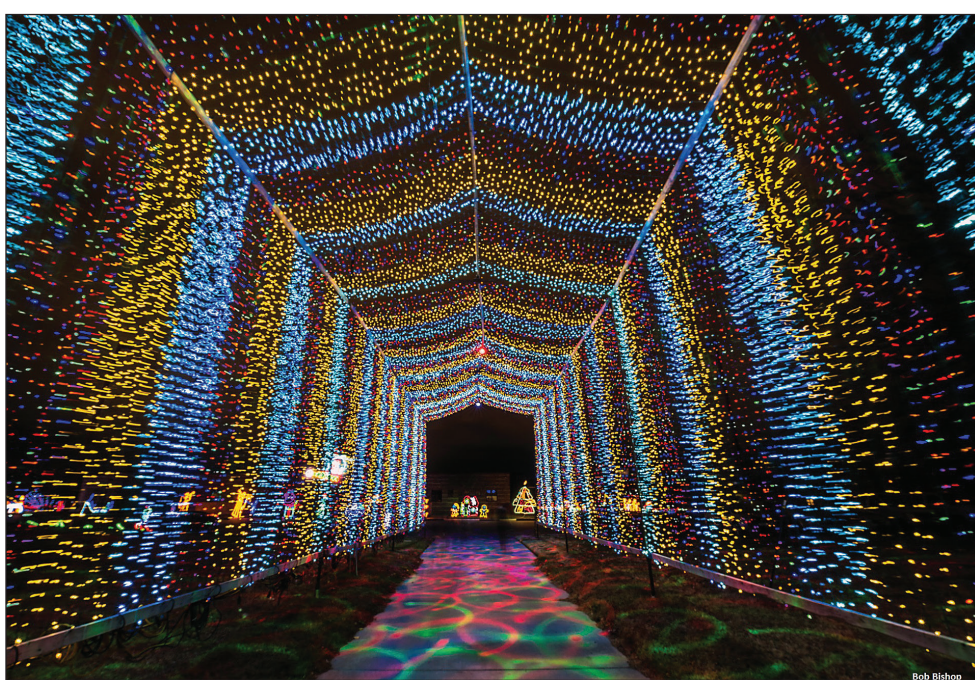
Suet Lee-Growney | POST

ABOVE: The tallest artificial Christmas tree stands in the mall area of Blue Earth Plaza at 315 S. Third St., Manhattan. The lighted tree is a little over 65-feet and located with the Festival of Lights display. **BELOW:** Children huddle together in Santa's sleigh for a photo at the Festival of Lights display in Manhattan Dec. 17. The sleigh ride display is one of the many holiday light attractions at the mall area of Blue Earth Plaza, 315 S. Third St.



COURTESY PHOTOS

ABOVE: Wamego became a town of twinkling colors Dec. 11 with the Season of Lights festival. There are crafts, free photos with Santa Claus, carriage rides and more at the festival in the City Park, 430 Lincoln St. **RIGHT:** The Arc's Lights near Wichita is open until Dec. 28. The holiday light display is hosted by staff and volunteers of the non-profit organization The Arc. Also in Wichita is Illuminations at Botanica at 701 Amidon St. The gardens boast more than a million lights across themed gardens with brightly lit larger-than-life flowers and bugs, ponds glistening with lights that float and move to holiday music, musical maze, traditional display of white lights with more than 25 chandeliers in the woodlands and more.



COURTESY PHOTO

This is the 21st year The Arc's Lights has been hosted by staff and volunteers of the non-profit The Arc. The Arc's Lights is open nightly at 5:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. Admission is by donation. Friday and Saturday admission is \$10 per vehicle. The display begins on the 4800 block of Douglas where Douglas meets St. Paul.



Suet Lee-Growney | POST

The Festival of Lights display is at 315 S. Third St. in the mall area of Blue Earth Plaza within Manhattan. In addition to the dazzling lights, there is holiday music in the background.



THE FIGHTING FIRST!

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION AT FORT RILEY 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW



THE FIGHTING FIRST!



SpC. Elizabeth Payne | 19th PAD

Maj. Rocknee Gardner, engineer operations officer, 1st Infantry Division, reunites with his wife during a welcome home ceremony June 14 at Fort Riley. More than 150 Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Inf. Div. returned home from a 9-month tour in Iraq.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AND COUNTING

The 'Big Red One' celebrated its centennial in 2017

Stories by staff of the 1st Infantry Division Post, 1st Infantry Division PAD and Fort Riley Garrison PAD

The year was one of both celebration and quiet observance as 2017 was the 1st Infantry Division's 100th anniversary the division stood up June 8, 1917.

Division also recognized the loss of brothers and sisters in arms in defense of the nation.

Observing its birth was the central theme in events during the past 12 months, and while saluting its rich history that bears testament to its motto — "No Mission Too Difficult, No Sacrifice Too Great — Duty First!" — the division also celebrated the return of the 1st Inf. Div. headquarters.

Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Martin, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general, handed over command of the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command — Operation Inherent Resolve to the 1st Armored Division July 12. About 150 Big Red One Soldiers from the division's headquarters element returned July 14 to waiting friends, family and Soldiers.

Meanwhile, elements of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, the 'Dagger' brigade, bid farewell in September and deployed to Europe in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

For the garrison — its leadership, Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians — the work alongside the division continued to ensure employment and educational opportunities for transitioning Soldiers.

In addition, working with other military partners across the U.S., the post hosted training opportunities, making Fort Riley a premier training site for the nation to maintain the readiness of its forces and keeping the post at the forefront as a major power projection platform.

The garrison and 1st Inf. Div. teams, along with Corvias leaders, also forged a partnership with the Kickapoo Nation and its housing authority to provide houses to alleviate a shortage of structures at that Native American reservation. Beginning in early summer and concluding in the fall, 10 houses that were to be demolished were instead transported to the Kickapoo, north of Topeka, Kansas.

And through it all, amid a continually challenging fiscal environment, the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, maintained its place as a robust economic engine in the region. According to a Joint Land Use Study published in August, Fort Riley's economic impact in Kansas is \$3.8 billion.

Rooted in the proud tradition of its past, but looking toward the future, the Big Red One and Fort Riley, continue to be a reliable community partner, a location of first choice for training military forces and a powerful, timely response force to any threat to the nation's interests.

The following are the top stories for 2017:

1. DIVISION HEADQUARTERS RETURNS AFTER NINE-MONTH TOUR IN IRAQ

The 1st Infantry Division transferred authority of the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command — Operation Inherent Resolve to the 1st Armored Division July 12 and, two days later, 150 1st Infantry Division Soldiers from the division's headquarters element returned to waiting friends, family and Soldiers.

During the 1st Inf. Div.'s time of command support, their mission was to advise and assist the Iraqi

See TOP 10, page 22

"Never before has a Coalition supported another state with this level of resources and enablers to achieve success in this manner."

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



Sgt. Shiloh Capers | 7th Mobile PAD Col. David Gardner, commander, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, speaks during a transfer of authority ceremony in Market Square, Zagan, Poland, Sept. 29. The ceremony marks the transfer of command and responsibility for the only armored brigade combat team in Europe from 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division to 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team.

2017 TOP 10 NEWS STORIES

1. Approximately 150 Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters returned home after successful nine-month tour of duty in Iraq
2. 'Dagger' brigade assumes lead role in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve
3. 'Demon' brigade Soldiers return to Fort Riley
4. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley, Sen. Jerry Moran tour new hospital
5. 'Big Red One' becomes first Army division to celebrate 100 years of service
6. Commanding General Mounted Color Guard rides in Inaugural Parade
7. 1st Infantry Division Victory Week and Victory Fest
8. Operation Walking Shield moves out
9. Full-Scale Exercise energizes Fort Riley rescue, relief capabilities
10. 9/11 Ceremony remembers those lost, honors those still fighting 16 years later

INSIDE: TOP COMMUNITY AND SPORTS STORIES FROM '17



— FALL APPLE DAY FESTIVAL, PAGE 11



— FORT RILEY MARATHONERS, PAGE 17

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

YEAR IN REVIEW



Soldiers from Company F, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, operate a Gray Eagle unmanned aircraft system at Marshall Army Airfield, Jan. 18, part of a week-long Table 6 Aerial Gunnery Training, the first of its kind at Fort Riley.



M1 Abrams tanks and an M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle maneuver during a combined-arms, live-fire exercise Feb. 3 at Fort Riley. The CALFEX is one portion of Operation Danger Focus II, a training exercise preparing the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team for the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, participated in relocation operations at Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, Feb. 24. The relocation, part of a 2014 bilateral agreement between the U.S. and South Korea.



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

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Sgt. Takita Lawery | 19th PAD

3

ABOVE: Capt. Jordan Dilena, an aviation officer assigned to 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, hugs his five year-old son, James, following a redeployment ceremony on Marshall Army Airfield, April 12. Dilena and a team of 800 1st CAB Soldiers were deployed to Afghanistan for eight months in support of Operation Resolute Support and Operation Freedom's Sentinel. **BELOW:** Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley, left, talks with Col. John Melton, commander of Irwin Army Community Hospital, about the staff and capabilities of the hospital Aug. 23. Milley visited the facility along with Sen. Jerry Moran to how it's progressed since opening in October 2016.



5



Chad Simon | 1ST INF. DIV.

The 1st Infantry Division celebrated the 100th anniversary of its organization June 8. "To know all the Soldiers, the generations of Big Red One Soldiers that have gone before us, their contributions and service to the nation over that 100 years, and then the ... Soldiers we've have currently deployed today across the globe, to include Maj. Gen. (Joseph) Martin and the division headquarters leading the fight against ISIS in Mosul, Iraq, it's pretty awesome to be a part of the 1st Infantry Division today," said Brig. Gen. Patrick Frank, at the time the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley acting senior commander.



Season Osterfeld | Post

4

TOP 10 Continued from page 21

military in their fight to defeat ISIS.

"Never before has a Coalition supported another state with this level of resources and enablers to achieve success in this manner," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Martin, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general.

While the 1st Inf. Div. was in command of CJFLCC-OIR, the coalition provided more than 1,500 airstrikes targeting nearly 10,000 targets, approximately 350 of which were vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices.

2. 'DAGGER' BRIGADE ASSUMES LEAD ROLE IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION ATLANTIC RESOLVE

The 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, cased its colors Sept. 6 at Victory Park in preparation for their deployment to Europe in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

"We enthusiastically accept the challenges and opportunities of Atlantic Resolve, the way we have dutifully accepted our missions of the past," said Col. David W. Gardner, 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., commander. "We are always ready

now, to be what America needs most, because no mission is too difficult and no sacrifice is too great."

The brigade's mission is intended to reassure NATO allies and partners of the United States' continued commitment to European security, and deter aggression by maintaining a high

readiness posture, while training with allies and partners to increase their interoperability. The brigade assumed authority in Zagan, Poland, Sept. 29.

3. 'DEMON' BRIGADE SOLDIERS RETURN TO FORT RILEY

After an eight-month deployment that took about 800 Soldiers with the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry

Division to Afghanistan, members of the "Demon" brigade began redeploying to Fort Riley in April.

"I'm exceptionally humbled to be a part of this tremendous team," said then 1st CAB commander, Col. John M. Cyrulik. "They have lived up to the storied legacy of being brave, responsible and on point for the nation."

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

On July 7, in a ceremony at Fort Riley's Cavalry Parade Field, Cyrulik turned command of the 'Demon' Brigade over to Col. Chris Black.

4. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GEN. MARK A. MILLEY, SEN. JERRY MORAN TOUR NEW HOSPITAL

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley and Sen. Jerry Moran visited Irwin Army Community Hospital Aug. 23 alongside Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Martin, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general.

Touring the facility with Col. John Melton, IACH commander, they met Soldiers and staff who gave updates on the hospital since it's opening in October 2016.

"We want exceptionally high-quality care," Milley said to Melton during the tour.

Moran added, looking to the future, "we want every person — certainly in the Army, but at the Pentagon — to know about the value, the importance of Fort Riley — to

see it, to feel it, to know it and to be supporters of Fort Riley."

5. 'BIG RED ONE' BECOMES FIRST ARMY DIVISION TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

Celebrating a century in the making, the 1st Infantry Division took time June 8 to celebrate its 100th anniversary. In May 1917, a newly formed unit was initially constituted in New York City as the First Expeditionary Division and placed under the command of Brig. Gen. William L. Siebert. On June 8 of that year it became the 1st Infantry Division and was the first divisional unit created to fight in World War I.

"To know all the Soldiers, the generations of Big Red One Soldiers that have gone before us, their contributions and service to the nation over that 100 years, and then the ... Soldiers we have currently deployed today across the globe, to include Maj. Gen. (Joseph) Martin and the division headquarters leading the fight against ISIS in Mosul, Iraq, it's pretty awesome to be a part of the 1st Infantry Division today," said Brig. Gen.

See TOP 10, page 23

"We want every person — certainly in the Army, but at the Pentagon — to know about the value, the importance of Fort Riley — to see it, to feel it, to know it and to be supporters of Fort Riley."

JERRY MORAN

SENATOR OF KANSAS DURING A VISIT TO IRWIN ARMY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL IN AUGUST. MORAN TOURED THE FACILITY ALONGSIDE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GEN. MARK A. MILLEY.

YEAR IN REVIEW



The 1st Infantry Division leadership transferred authority of the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command - Operation Inherent Resolve to the 1st Armored Division July 12. Two days later, 150 1st Infantry Division Soldiers returned to Fort Riley.



Army Installation Management Command 2017 Soldier of the Year Spc. Lillian Lewis of Fort Riley's Religious Support Center competes in the obstacle course portion of round two of 2017 Best Warrior Competition against Soldiers from IMCOM, Army North, Army South and Army Central Aug. 1 at Camp Bullis, Texas. When the competition ended Aug. 7, Lewis had finished second in the 2017 Joint Base San Antonio.



Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Martin, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, and 1st Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Cornelison, division senior noncommissioned officer, pay respects at the 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony Sept. 11. They laid a wreath beside the memorial. An inscription on the wreath read "Some gave all."

20

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

YEAR IN REVIEW

17



Support for transitioning Soldiers was a recurring theme in 2017. **LEFT**, Soldiers, retirees, family members and visitors from the surrounding communities met for the 10th annual Hiring Heroes Career Fair April 26. **RIGHT**, staffs from Airstreams Renewables and Soldier For Life - Transition Assistance Program, along with the first eight students of the Airstreams program and the Fort Riley garrison command team cut the ribbon for the training towers May 1.



About 1,200 Soldiers from the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma National Guard, came to Fort Riley for two weeks of unit level exercises in June, marking the second year the 45th IBCT came to Fort Riley for their annual training. The exercises included squad live fires, gunnery tasks, pre-mobilization training, tube-launched, optically tracked and wire-guided missile live-fire exercises.



Tech. Sgt. Trevor Tiernan | U.S. AIR FORCE



Sgt. John Rauffmann | U.S. MARINE CORPS

LEFT: The 1st Infantry Division Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard represented the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley in the 58th Presidential Inauguration Parade in Washington, D.C. Jan. 20, for the 45th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump. **RIGHT**: Troopers with the 1st Infantry Division Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard drive their 1871-era escort wagon down Pennsylvania Avenue during the 58th Presidential Inauguration Parade in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20.



Chad L. Simon | 1ST INF. DIV.

ABOVE: The 97th Military Police Brigade won the Victory Cup after competing in various Victory Week events during a ceremony Aug. 25. Victory Week ran Aug. 16 to 25. It consists of several sporting events to boost morale and build unit cohesion. **RIGHT**: Maj. Gen. Joseph Martin, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, joins the Charlie Daniels Band on the main stage during Victory Fest Aug. 19 at Marshall Army Airfield. The band joined Lit, The AllAmerican Rejects and the Eli Young Band at the all-day music festival.



Collen McGee | FORT RILEY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TOP 10 Continued from page 22

Patrick Frank, at the time the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley acting senior commander.

6. COMMANDING GENERAL'S MOUNTED COLOR GUARD RIDES IN INAUGURAL PARADE

The 1st Infantry Division Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard represented the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley in the 58th Presidential Inauguration Parade in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, for the 45th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump. The contingent included 1871-era wagon reproductions. More than 5,000 military members from across all branches of the armed forces of the United States, including Reserve and National Guard components, provided ceremonial support and defense support of civil authorities during the inaugural period.

7. 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION VICTORY WEEK AND VICTORY FEST 2017

Service members with the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley were witness to a celebration 100 years in the making as the "Big Red One" hosted Victory Week 2017 Aug. 16-25 on the historic post.

The week-long event is an annual occasion for sporting events and

ceremonies to enhance unit cohesion and morale. This year's Victory Week also served as a celebration of the division's 100th anniversary.

"It's a celebration of 100 years of history, being the first division, the first in many regards," said Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Martin, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general. "The message that I've been delivering

"The message that I've been delivering to Soldiers across the formation is we have an incredible legacy in this division, and now, as teammates in this division, we have to be mindful of that as we move forward. The reputation and the history of this division will continue on, and they're part of it."

MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH M. MARTIN

1ST INFANTRY DIVISION AND FORT RILEY COMMANDING GENERAL SAID ABOUT VICTORY WEEK AUGUST 16 TO 25.

to Soldiers across the formation is we have an incredible legacy in this division, and now, as teammates in this division, we have to be mindful of that as we move forward. The reputation and the history of this division will continue on, and they're a part of it."

Victory Week was highlighted by:

- Victory Week 2017 began with the unveiling of a monument to the 1st Infantry Division's 100th year at Victory Park.

It was donated by the Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley. The black granite monument features the division's centennial logo. Below the logo is a dedication to the Big Red One and an excerpt from Paul Herbert, executive director of the First Division Museum

in Cantigny Park, Illinois, summarizing some of the major conflicts the division has fought in.

- Also part of the event was Victory Fest 2017, a family friendly concert held Aug. 19 at Marshall Army Airfield. Local bands such as Brady Weston Band, Tanner Dirks Band, 1st Inf. Div. Band, Muzizi, Lucas Maddy Band, Bootleg Mercy and Tim Strathman Band

performed at the secondary stage. The headliners on the main stage featured the USO Show Troupe, followed by Lit, Charlie Daniels Band, The All-American Rejects at sunset, Eli Young Band to close the concert and a 20-minute fireworks finale. "They are going to feel the power," Martin said from the

stage. "What's the power? The power is 100 years of service to our nation. This division: the first to go into World War I, the first to go into Africa, Sicily and Europe in World War II; the first to go into Vietnam; the first to go across to breach in Desert Storm; the first to serve in Iraq and who we are — we are the 1st Infantry Division." Heather Wilburn, marketing manager at Fort Riley's

Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said more than 4,500 tickets were distributed; the largest turnout for Victory Fest in a decade.

- Victory Week was also a time to embrace Vietnam Veterans and remember. Hosted by the 1st Infantry Division, the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony took place Aug. 23 at Marshall Army Airfield. Marine veteran Rodney Hilker made the 250-mile trip from Arapahoe, Nebraska, to Fort Riley with his son and grandson for the reception. "It is awe enhancing," Hilker said. "I have never been around anything like this since I have been out of the Marine Corps and that has been 46 years. You get an occasional 'thank you,' but for this and all they have done for us and to get us down to a program like this means a lot to me."
- The Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home came about a month after a July 27 visit to Fort Riley of more than 250 veterans and their families from the Society of the 1st Infantry

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The Irwin Army Community Hospital celebrated its first anniversary Oct. 16. "We look to the hospital as a gift from the American people," said Col. John Melton, IACH commander. "We see ourselves as the Big Red One hospital and the division considers us their hospital... Our purpose is clear. We empower those who fight and win our nation's wars."



Polish soldiers assigned to the 2nd Engineer Battalion, 5th Engineer Regiment, and U.S. Soldiers with the 82nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division both participated in a 13-day training event called Bull Eagle at the Drawsko Pomorskie training area near Oleszno, Poland Nov. 19.



Soldiers, family members and members of surrounding communities placed wreaths upon the graves of service members buried at the Fort Riley Post Cemetery for Wreaths Across America Dec. 16.

YEAR IN REVIEW

17



8

Courtesy Photo

Over the course of the summer and fall, 10 homes from Fort Riley's Warner-Peterson housing area was transported to the Kickapoo Nation reservation, north of Topeka, Kansas, to help alleviate a need for three- and four-bedroom houses there. The transportation of the structures, previously marked for demolition, was a result of a partnership between personnel of the 1st Infantry Division, Corvias Military Living, Fort Riley and the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas.



9

Andy Massanet | 1st Inf. Div. Post

Sgt. 1st Class Steven Houser of the 300th Military Police Company, 97th Military Police Battalion, consults with Lt. Casey Sparks of the Directorate of Emergency Services during a Full-Scale Exercise at Fort Riley May 17. Houser and his Soldiers comprised a quick reaction force for rescue efforts, said Will Paskow, Chief of Police, DES. Fort Riley garrison personnel launched a full-scale exercise to test directorate crisis responses.



10

Season Osterfeld | 1ST INF. DIV. POST

TOP LEFT: Master Sgt. Joel Larabaeza, representative from the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, speaks to an audience of Gold Star Families, Fort Riley leadership and community members, as well as members of the surrounding communities during the 9/11 ceremony Sept. 11 in front of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial. "The memorial's granite pentagon base and marble twin towers represent the actual sites in which the terrorist attacks occurred on Sept. 11, 2001," he said of the memorial. "The names of the Soldiers mobilized and deployed, who were killed in support of the Global War on Terrorism, to include the year of their deaths, are engraved on the memorial's twin towers. No name will be added this year." **TOP RIGHT:** Soldiers of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard hold up the nation's colors with the flags of all 50 states behind them during the 9/11 ceremony Sept. 11 at the Global War on Terrorism Memorial. **LEFT:** Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Martin, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, and 1st Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Cornelison salute the Global War on Terrorism Memorial during the 9/11 ceremony Sept. 11. Together, they laid a wreath beside the memorial. An inscription upon the wreath read "Some gave all."



NO MISSION TOO DIFFICULT, NO SACRIFICE TOO GREAT.

DUTY FIRST!

TOP 10 Continued from page 11

- Division. The veterans received a tour of the post and visited with active-duty Soldiers from the division.
- In an Aug. 22 ceremony, the names of 85 service members were added to those already enshrined in Victory Park, adjacent to the 1st Infantry Division headquarters building on Fort Riley. "We didn't lose 85 Soldiers this year. What we have done is to formalize and solidify the guidelines, and the process in which someone is memorialized in this park. After formalizing this policy, we realized some Soldiers not memorialized are now eligible, and we are rectifying that today," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Martin, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general.

8. OPERATION WALKING SHIELD MOVES OUT

Over the course of the summer and fall, 10 homes from Fort Riley's Warner-Peterson housing area were transported to the Kickapoo Nation reservation, north of Topeka, Kansas, to help alleviate a need for three- and four-bedroom houses there. The transportation of the structures, previously marked for demolition was a result of a partnership between personnel of the 1st Infantry Division,

Corvias, Fort Riley and the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas.

"We're totally excited about this because we get to work with Fort Riley and Operation Walking Shield," said Lester Randall, chairman of the Kickapoo Tribal Council. "What this does for us is it gives our reservation members living in multi-family households an opportunity to have their own home, whether it's rented or owned, and that will help — economically help the tribe

Also unique about this exercise was that it took place in the Warner-Peterson housing area. With the area already in a state of demolition, it became a candidate for staging an exercise. The scenario: tornadoes left damage and injuries to Fort Riley and its citizens. First responders from Fort Riley Fire and Emergency Services were dispatched to the Warner-Peterson neighborhood, eventually joined by medical personnel from

"The conditions were a bit tough, but everybody is pulling together and are optimistic and doing the right things," Police Chief Will Paskow said.

10. 9/11 CEREMONY REMEMBERS THOSE LOST, HONORS THOSE STILL FIGHTING

Fort Riley held a ceremony on the 9/11 anniversary at the Global War on Terrorism Memorial, 16

the ceremony, to the audience. "We remember the brave first responders who gave their lives to rescue those trapped in the doomed twin towers and to our local first responders in front of you for all of their dedication to the service of our country."

The terrible cost of the attacks and the conflict that followed must always be remembered and spur renewed allegiance to the nation, said Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Martin, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general.

"There's no stronger statement of commitment than giving one's life in the service of others," Martin said. "We owe them an unending gratitude. Indeed for them, no sacrifice was too great. While we honor and remember their death, we also commemorate the service of those heroes and that is the true essence of Patriot Day in my personal opinion."

"There's no stronger statement of commitment than giving one's life in the service of others. We owe them an unending gratitude. Indeed for them, no sacrifice was too great."

MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH M. MARTIN
1ST INFANTRY DIVISION AND FORT RILEY COMMANDING GENERAL AT THE 9/11 MEMORIAL CEREMONY ON ITS 16TH ANNIVERSARY

and allow members to move back to the reservation."

9. FULL-SCALE EXERCISE ENERGIZES FORT RILEY RESCUE, RELIEF CAPABILITIES

Fort Riley garrison personnel launched a full-scale exercise May 17 to test directorate crisis responses. The exercise was planned to last 24 to 36 hours, about twice as long as similar exercises conducted in previous years.

Irwin Army Community Hospital; the Directorate of Public Works; Corvias; Army Community Services; and members of the 300th Military Police Company, 97th Military Battalion and the American Red Cross.

Part of the challenge during the exercise came in the form of real inclement weather that brought high winds, building gray clouds and, for a time, a squall of rain and small hail.

years after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Members of the Fort Riley and Central Flint Hills Region of Kansas came together to honor those who lost their lives that day and in the following years.

"Today, we remember our fellow Americans who perished in the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001," said Master Sgt. Joel Larabaeza, representative from the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club in an address at



THE FIGHTING FIRST!