



THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION POST



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FORT RILEY, KANSAS

Community engagement brings St. John Vianney School to Fort Riley

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

“This event is really to get the kids interested in Fort Riley and the Army because it is one of the most historical posts in the United States ... so it is a big piece of Kansas history,” said Capt. Kevin Conners, space control operations officer at Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division.

Conners helped organize the installation tour for St. John Vianney School from Maple Hill, Kansas, Feb. 8 for approximately 30 students and staff.

As their first time at Fort Riley, Conners said the event helped facilitate community engagement.

“It is a combination of us reaching out to the public and it’s the public actually showing an interest in coming to Fort

Riley when those requests are submitted,” Conners said.

The installation tour began at the stables of the Commanding General’s Mounted Color Guard.

At the stables, the group learned about how the horses are groomed, and the history of CGMCG, met various horses and ended the tour with a demonstration.

In the crowd was horse lover and St. John Vianney student Lucia Penrod who attended the event in a hoodie with a horse graphic on the front.

“I’m happy I’m here,” Lucia said after the hurdle demonstration.

The CGMCG was the first of three stops in the tour.

“Since the museum is closed we unfortunately don’t get to go into the museum there, but the curator was kind enough to put together a presentation for

the tour,” Conners said. “So I believe he is going to go through the history of the Army uniform, talk a little bit about each Army period. We will look at the static displays of all the vehicles we have right outside of the museums because they are still open.”

After lunch, the students had the opportunity to test helicopter simulators.

“We are going to try to give everyone a chance to fly the helicopters,” Conners said.

To future events, Conners said he and his team at 1st Inf. Div. work on engagements with the public and other visits at Fort Riley. He said all they need to do is submit a request for a tour and would like to do more events like this in the future.

“Getting the public in to see a big part of their Kansas history is a great opportunity,” Conners said.

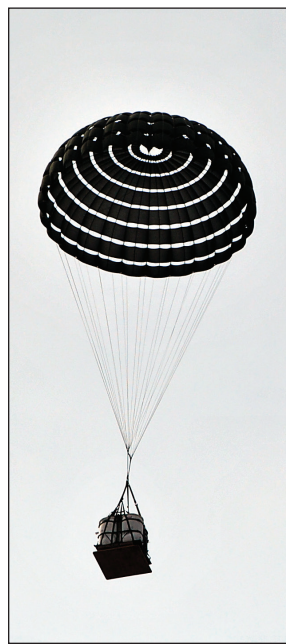


A Soldier shows off one of the many demonstrations performed by the horses of the Commanding General’s Mounted Color Guard at the CGMCG stables Feb. 8 during Saint John Vianney School, Maple Hill, Kansas, tour of Fort Riley.

Air National Guard shares training capabilities during Warfighter exercise



TOP: An Improved Container Delivery System bundle lands on Herc Nav drop zone at Douthit Gunnery Complex during the Joint Precision Airdrop System training between 180th Airlift Squadron, 139th Airlift Wing, St. Joseph, Missouri, and 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade Feb. 9. The training was to simulate a real-world example of an air movement request for an airdrop to resupply a unit on the ground. **RIGHT:** An IPADS bundle is airdropped on the Herc Nav drop zone at Douthit Gunnery Complex Feb. 9.



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

Gray skies, low clouds, freezing temperatures, gusty Midwest winds and one C-130 out of action might be unforgiving to field training exercises, but it didn’t stop the Joint Precision Airdrop System training between 180th Airlift Squadron, 139th Airlift Wing, St. Joseph, Missouri, and 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade Feb. 9 at Herc Nav drop zone, Douthit Gunnery Complex.

The purpose of the joint training was three-fold since there were several parties involved in the process. Lt. Col. Pat Linson, 139th

See AIRDROPS, page 2

US Army Garrison Fort Riley welcomes new command sergeant major



Outgoing Fort Riley garrison Command Sgt. Maj. James Collins, right, stands alongside Col. John D. Lawrence, center, Fort Riley garrison commander, and incoming garrison senior noncommissioned officer Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew Bristow II, left, during the garrison change of responsibility ceremony Feb. 6 at Riley’s Conference Center.

Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew Bristow II assumes responsibility during ceremony

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

Civilians, Soldiers, retired Army service members, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Riley partners and organizations around the Flint Hills region gathered at Riley’s Conference Center Feb. 6 to welcome the new garrison senior noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. Andrew T. Bristow II, during a change of responsibility ceremony.

Presiding over the ceremony was Col. James D. Lawrence, Fort Riley garrison commander. He said, during his speech, Bristow has already hit the ground running.

“He’s already met with directors, partners and local leaders,” Lawrence said. “He is not a stranger to training and

taking care of Soldiers and their families ... and I am confident he is up to the task as we take the garrison to new levels.”

During his speech, Bristow said to Soldiers of Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division he will do his best to make sure they and their families will continue to be taken care of. He also showed his appreciation to Command Sgt. Major James Collins, outgoing garrison senior noncommissioned officer, for the short time they spent working together.

“The last few weeks that I spent with you leading to the change of responsibility has been invaluable — thank you,” Bristow said.

During Lawrence’s welcome speech to Bristow, he took time to thank Collins for his efforts in making every Fort Riley mission they undertook a success.

“Much of this success is attributed to Command Sgt. Maj. Collins’ focus on people,” Lawrence said. “He adhered to the fundamentals of what he knew: positive leadership, engagement, mutual respect and trust ... all of that leading to mission success.”

It was not uncommon to see Collins at a variety of events among Soldiers and family, Lawrence said. Some of the places Collins frequented were the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers office, garrison directorate offices, Child Development Centers, Warrior Zone and chapels.

“You can find him mentoring Soldiers, talking to family members about their concerns or just talking with

See GARRISON, page 3

‘Devil’s Spawn’ company conducts world-class training at National Training Center



Soldiers of the “Devil’s Spawn” company pose for a photo following their support rotation with the Soldiers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California, Jan. 24.

By Capt. Eric Boeckers
HHC, 1ST ABCT

A company of Soldiers assembled from throughout the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, deployed to Fort Irwin, California, to assist the training of Soldiers from 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado Jan. 6.

Almost 100 Soldiers formed “Devil’s Spawn” company

for this mission. Some of the Soldiers who deployed were cavalry scouts from 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st ABCT; wheeled vehicle mechanics from 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st ABCT; satellite communications systems operators from 3rd Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, 1st ABCT and infantry Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st ABCT.

Their mission was to integrate with Soldiers of 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment as an infantry company of experienced Soldiers who could assist in providing training to 1st SBCT, 4th Inf. Div., as an opposition force at the National Training Center.

Devil’s Spawn company “really was instrumental in the success of the OPFOR mission to provide 1st SBCT, 4th Inf. Div., with a world-class training event,” said Lt.

Col. Christopher Danbeck, commander, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. “They quickly integrated into the formation and were motivated...”

“We could not have done what we needed to without them.”

While their mission was to provide 1st SBCT, 4th Inf. Div., with training, the Soldiers used this training opportunity

See DEVIL, page 2

FORT RILEY VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Jacob Hirshey was recognized by Installation Chapel Service for volunteering as a teaching assistant at the Catholic religious education program for two years and has been an altar server at Catholic masses for the past five. He helps prepare the classes and provides assistance with instruction for church kindergarten class.

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

IN THIS ISSUE



FORT RILEY POST LIBRARY PATRONS ENJOY LOVELY CUPCAKES AND MORE AT THE VALENTINE’S DAY PARTY, SEE PAGE 9.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



CHECK OUT THE HIDDEN GEMS OF FUN AND HISTORY IN JUNCTION CITY, SEE PAGE 14.

'Lifeline' Soldiers conduct live-fire training in Grafenwoehr Training Area



Staff Sgt. Daryl Carroll, gunner and motor transport operator assigned to 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, shoots an M240B machine gun during training at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, Feb. 8.

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Sharon Matthias
22ND MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Leaders from 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, know Soldiers must maintain fundamental skills.

Capt. Corey Dyke and 1st Lt. James Mashburn, both assigned to 299th BSB, sought to improve their unit's ability to perform under pressure during a mounted, live-fire training exercise in Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, Feb. 8.

Under the supervision of Dyke and Mashburn, the "Lifeline" battalion set up a network of operators who monitored communications and software located at the range control center as 299th BSB Soldiers performed their set tasks.

The training was designed to test each Soldier's ability to perform their assigned job while executing fundamentals in offensive and defensive soldiering tasks in a convoy.

"This training gives us the capability to protect our own convoys as we move out, and it also protects us in the BSA (brigade support area) when we're

in the field," Dyke said. "This gives our crews practice engaging enemy targets on the move and in stationary positions."

The 299th BSB training also provided participants the chance to develop crew communications skills in a vehicle loaded with equipment and supplies.

"Getting sustainers qualified while driving the type of vehicle they will be driving with an actual load on the back, whether that's (Meals, Ready to Eat) or fuel," Dyke said.

As the next iteration of training began, Dyke quieted as a hurried voice over the radio filled the center.

"Targets at 50 meters!" shouted the vehicle's leader over the radio.

"On the way," the gunner for the vehicle replied. A burst of rapid gunfire echoed amongst the trees from a distance shortly thereafter.

The convoy was under attack and it was time for the Soldiers to apply lessons given to them in classroom instructions. Their enemy, represented by plastic human and vehicle silhouettes painted in olive-drab green, were quickly eradicated.

On this vehicle shooting range, Soldiers face simulated attacks from moving and stationary enemy.

"Each target pops up for 90 seconds, and the way the scoring works, you have to identify and engage the targets within 90 seconds or else it falls down," said Mashburn, an ordinance officer. "Your time starts when you start putting rounds downrange."

The Soldiers were given 340 rounds for six different scenarios, Mashburn said, requiring each Soldier to manage their ammunition use.

Staff Sgt. Daryl Carroll, with 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, 2nd ABCT, participated in the training exercise and found it challenged him.

"I do say that this training is well worth it," Carroll said. "It should be taken seriously because it does help."

This training is helping lower enlisted Soldiers further hone their skills as they continue supporting Atlantic Resolve.

"The training was good," said Pfc. Sandy Peralta, a 1st Bn., 63rd Armor Regt. motor transport operator. "I am learning a lot."

The 299th BSB is currently deployed to Europe in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, a U.S. effort to deter aggression in Europe and to strengthen existing relations with ally and partner nations.

AIRDROPS Continued from page 1



A C-130 from 180th Airlift Squadron, 139th Airlift Wing, St. Joseph, Missouri, flies across the air space through low clouds above Douthitt Gunnery Complex Feb. 9 during the Joint Precision Airdrop System training with 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade. The training was to simulate a real-world example of an air movement request for an airdrop to resupply a unit on the ground.

Airlift Wing's chief of tactics, said the unit's purpose at Fort Riley is to integrate with the Army and to train Air Force personnel in tactical applications of resupply, which is what airdrop is.

"We are always integrating with Army, Marine Corps, Navy, so this (training) is to just break down those barriers of communication and have one language between the services," Linson said. "It's just great to have that working outside your own service because that's what we do in theater."

The training purpose for Fort Riley was to show the new support area command post team that local air wings are capable and interested in coming out to train with the 1st Infantry Division, according to Capt. Matthew Zahler, 621st Mobility Support Operations Squadron and 1st Inf. Div. air mobility liaison officer.

"I didn't want to pass up the opportunity to show the (SACP) staff the opportunities that are out there with the local Air Force wings," Zahler said. "We are doing this over two days and we coordinated during the Warfighter for the SACP guys to be able to see."

Steve Crusinberry, director of the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, echoed Zahler's statement saying the airdrops are conducted to instill an expeditionary mindset into the Soldiers of the 1st Inf. Div., particularly 1st Inf. Div. Sust. Bde.

"(The airdrops) were conducted right next to the sustainment brigade command

post out there," Crusinberry said. "Sustainment brigade is that element of the 11D that is responsible all logistics support to the division. To bring in those C-130s and drop pallets of water and (Meals, Ready-to-Eat) and everything else into the sustainment (brigade) area, so it could be issued out to the brigade Soldiers in the field, was absolutely critical to their training."

The 139th Airlift Wing's aerial port team built, rigged and loaded MREs and simulated ammo cans for airdrop on Improved Container Delivery System bundles. Then on Feb. 8 and 9, they made a couple of trips from St. Joseph by aircraft to drop the ICDS using the JPAD system.

"They are simulating JPADS drops, so they are doing JPADS procedures," Zahler said. "(JPADS is) fancy words for bundle with a steerable chute that can steer itself ... This would be real-world example of putting in an AMR — an air movement request — for an airdrop to resupply a unit on the ground."

After the supplies land on the Herc Nav drop zone via air, 139th Airlift Wing personnel and 1st Inf. Div. Sust. Bde. will work together to recover and deliver resupply bundles to Soldiers in the field. Zahler said air units around the area are always interested in coming out to Fort Riley and train together, and that is where his position as AMLO comes in to play.

"(Air forces) are offering their own parachutes, their

own riggers, their own stuff and just for a chance to come out and do some joint exercises with the Army," he said. "The crux of my job is the Army always wants to play with Air Force toys and the Air Force wants to play with Army toys, but nobody knows how to talk to the other person and where they are — and that's kind of what I do. I have direct liaison authority as an AMLO, so I'm allowed to knock on colonels and generals and whomever's doors and say 'hey, I've got some airplanes that want to play with you guys. You guys need some training with some airplanes.'"

Training between the Air National Guard and 1st Inf. Div. goes beyond division readiness. Anytime more than one military component trains together, it is important, Crusinberry said. He ties the readiness training in with the Total Force concept.

"Total Force is not something we talk about here at Fort Riley; total Force is something that we train here at Fort Riley," he said. "It is great that we can do joint training with our Air Guard partners right here; it's pretty invaluable, it's pretty unique. Not many installations do this ... It's pretty invaluable for our Soldiers here as well as those Total Force partners we have at the Air Guard ... Let's (train) right here at home station, let's learn how to do it, let's make mistakes if we have to and practice right here so if they have to go someplace else to deploy, wherever it may be, they'll go out at a higher level of proficiency."



FROM LEFT: Spc. Courtney Lanier, Staff Sgt. Merlin Hellon and 1st Lt. James Mashburn, all assigned to the 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, work as range control system operators during a qualifying range on Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany Feb. 8.

DEVIL Continued from page 1

to build readiness and execute some of their skills and training. The Soldiers drove Humvees at night under night-vision goggles, used radio equipment, conducted operations expeditiously and fought on the battlefield of NTC with rifle and grenades.

According to Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Williams, senior noncommissioned officer of 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the success of the company was due to the motivation and professionalism of the Soldiers and outstanding leadership provide by the NCOs at all levels.

"To take a disparate group of Soldiers, who held a wide array of specialties, and forge them into a cohesive team that works and fights well takes a superior level of leadership," Williams said. "My hat is off to the incredible noncommissioned officers of that company who made so many great things happen."

The Soldiers of Devil's Spawn company returned to Fort Riley Jan. 26.

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US Army Garrison Fort Riley senior noncommissioned officer retires after 27 years



LEFT: Command Sgt. Maj. James Collins, left, former Fort Riley garrison senior noncommissioned officer, stands beside with his wife, Kindra Collins; daughter, Alexis and son Colton during Collins' retirement ceremony. Collins is leaving the military after 27 years of service. **RIGHT:** Command Sgt. Maj. James Collins, left, receives the Legion of Merit award from Col. John D. Lawrence, Fort Riley garrison commander, during Collins' retirement ceremony. Collins also relinquished responsibility after two years of being Fort Riley garrison's command sergeant major.

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

A retirement ceremony for Command Sgt. Maj. James Collins, Fort Riley garrison senior noncommissioned officer, was held at Riley's Conference Center Feb. 6. Collins served two years as the installation's garrison command sergeant major and is retiring after 27 years of military service.

Col. James D. Lawrence, Fort Riley garrison commander, highlighted a quality possessed by his right-hand man as a leader: Collins' focus on people.

"Throughout his career he has focused on Soldiers; not only leading them, but caring for them and training them ...," he said. "With that, he has also provided new ideas. He came into the garrison and looked at where he could make an impact."

One of the many things Collins was involved in is the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program at Fort Riley. He used his passion in automobiles to create a place for Soldiers to link

up and share similar interest. Hence, the first Cars and Coffee event on post came to be.

"(Collins) brought in new ideas; one of his favorites was Cars and Coffee," Lawrence said. "He is big on his cars."

Lawrence added Collins could be seen everywhere from working with Soldiers and civilians and mentoring Soldiers to attending various Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation events and sitting on numerous boards in the community, such as the Unified School District 475 Board of Education.

"That is a true testament of what this leader does," Lawrence said. "There are so many things that you don't see on a day-to-day basis ... he goes out and talks to people ... providing a military perspective to our civilian counterparts, ensuring that our children receive the best education possible."

During the ceremony, Collins' wife, Kindra Collins, was awarded a certificate of appreciation for her spirit of sacrifice and demonstrated devotion to her family and husband during his 27-year military career.



Lawrence said though Kindra did not enlist, she went through a lot to support her husband: separations; deployments; being not only the mother, but the father; working through things as a career person; running a home and also running a family and dreaded permanent change of duty stations.

"We all know what (PCS) are like," Lawrence said. "But she had worked through that and she again will do the next PCS as they move to Florida. The late telephones calls — basically the interrupted family time — and throughout it all, she has supported her Soldier."

Collins was presented the Legion of Merit military award for his exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements, Department of the Army certificate of retirement signed by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley, certificate of appreciation signed by the Commander-in-Chief, President Donald J. Trump, and a folded American flag as a token of appreciation.

Collins took a moment to thank everyone who attended his retirement ceremony. He

said though he has travelled to many countries around the world, met incredible people everywhere and did almost everything he could have done as a Soldier, but he said the biggest thing he got from his 27 years of service was his family.

"I met a lot of people along the way, a lot of good friends, but the best thing I got because of the Army is my family," he said. "Kindra, Alexis and Colton — and Draven, who is not here. And for these things I'm grateful, so thank you."

Collins said he one thing he will miss most about Fort Riley are the connections he's made.

"I made a lot of good friends here and unfortunately they're going to stay here and we're going to Florida," Collins said. "I'm going to miss the friends I made here the most."

As soon as Collins retires, the first thing he's going to do is "go catch sharks on the beach in Florida," he said chuckling.

The Collins family will retire in Palm Bay, Florida where Collins plans to be an entrepreneur, sail, fish and spend more time with his family.

GARRISON Continued from page 1

the civilians, motivating them to continue on with the (Army) mission," he said. "This interaction chartered an effective path for the command to establish a positive climate within not only the garrison, but also within Fort Riley."

During Collin's farewell speech, he said three years ago when he was informed he was going to be the garrison sergeant major for Fort Riley, he had no idea what he was getting into. But little did he know he would stand there that day with the knowledge that he had just completed the most rewarding assignment of his career, he said.

"This position is different from any assignment I've had and the work is entirely unfamiliar," Collins said. "Up until this point, my career had been as a consumer that you (garrison workforce) provided with little thought with what it takes to make the installation run. My time here has taught me a newfound respect and appreciation of profession civilian workforce that works tirelessly in support of Soldiers Army-wide. Commanders and sergeant majors come and go, but the civilians remain here as a continuity to assure the standards and service of Fort Riley remain constant."

In closing, Collins' expressed his gratitude being tasked to keep the USAG colors.

"It's truly been my pleasure to the keeper of the colors for the Fort Riley garrison and my role being your command sergeant major has been enjoyable because of your accomplishments in the name of taking care of Soldiers and their families — I owe you all that gratitude," he said.

Collins relinquished responsibility after serving as the garrison senior noncommissioned officer since February of 2016 and was also retiring from the Army after 27 years of service. Apart from actively participating in various on-post programs and events, he was also on the board of education as the Fort Riley representative for Unified School District 475.

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11 Fort Riley civilians part of Flint Hills Regional Leadership Program 25th anniversary class

FLINT HILLS REGIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Eleven civilians from across Fort Riley have completed the Flint Hills Regional Leadership Program Class of 2017-2018, the class of the program's 25th anniversary.

The Fort Riley class members included:

- Curt Blanke, Regional Network Enterprise Center
- Crystal Bryant-Kearns, USO Fort Riley Transition Services site manager
- Leza Chrysosovergis, Fort Riley U.S. Army Garrison, Directorate of Human Resources
- Rob Couch, Corvias senior community manager
- Theresa de la Garza, Historic Architect and Cultural Resources Manager, Fort Riley
- Anthony Ewers, USAG resource management officer
- Judy Fielder, Department of the Army, Directorate of Contracting management analyst
- Delizangel Pittre-Flores, Corvias Colyer Forsyth community manager
- Heather Stewart, USAG Plans, Analysis and Integration Office
- Curtis Wood, USAG, Department of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security
- Elizabeth Wert, Corvias senior community manager

The Fort Riley members joined a class of 30 individuals from across the region who have completed the course; the group included people who work at public agencies in Manhattan, Kansas, Kansas State University, the local government in Junction City, Kansas, and Manhattan-Ogden Unified School District 383.

"Participants to date have one thing in common; the desire to better life and livelihood in the northern Flint Hills", said Jack Lindquist, executive director of the Flint Hills Regional Leadership Program. "Although all of our classes have been phenomenal since the program was formed

in 1992, this was a special class for the program as it was the 25th anniversary offering."

Lundquist said the total number of people who have completed the course is nearing 500.

"(It is) an amazing milestone that has and will continue to greatly benefit the region," he said. "In addition, our partner, Fort Riley, celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Big Red One (in 2017), adding much more fanfare to the training year."

Retired Lt. Gen. Perry Wiggins, former commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division, provided an inspirational "charge to leadership" speech at the 25th anniversary and class announcement ceremony on Sept. 1, 2017.

COURTESY PHOTO

The 25th anniversary class of the Flint Hills Regional Leadership Program included 11 Fort Riley civilians. The Fort Riley members joined a class of 30 individuals from across the region who also completed the course.

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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.

ASK DR. JARGON

Army Structure

DEAR DR. JARGON,

My next-door neighbor and I have a lot in common. Between us we've discovered our husbands share a lot of the same interests also. I'm excited about the possibility of a new friendship but getting our guys together is proving to be more difficult than I thought. We know they'd feel more like going and exploring the area if they at least have met first. My neighbor says her spouse is in Company B. But my husband is in Company B and he has never met her spouse. His company isn't that big. How can they not know each other?

Signed,
Confused about B Company

DEAR CONFUSED,

You are not alone in being confused about the Army structure. Lots of people who have not spent much time in the Army, and even some who have, find it hard to understand until they can see it laid out on a chart or have it explained. Let me try to help you. Within the 1st Infantry Division there are four brigades, within each brigade are battalions and in each battalion there are companies. One exception is the Combat Aviation Brigade where battalions can be called squadrons and a company-level units can be referred to as a troop or a battery. Also, battalion-level organizations can be called regiments in some brigades. Some of these names are used because they pay tribute to that unit's originating heritage. As for companies, each battalion within a brigade has company-sized units and from one battalion to another there could be a Company B within each. So, if your spouses are in different battalions, or brigades, they could each be in a Company B, but that company may be under a different commander and brigade. I hope you get the guys together and explore some of your shared interests. Nothing gets you through the ups and downs of life in the Army like having good friends who experience the same issues.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jargon

Dr. Jargon, cutting through the jargon that is the U.S. Army. Send your Army terminology questions to doctorjargon@gmail.com.

New commissary improves quality of life for Camp Humphreys community



COURTESY PHOTO

When Army Soldiers deploy to Camp Humphreys in the future, there will be a new, 44,000 square foot, state-of-the-art commissary waiting to serve them.

By Keith Desbois,
DECA

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — The Defense Commissary Agency's new Camp Humphreys Commissary came to life Feb. 7, as hundreds of service members and their families lined up in the bitter cold awaiting for the doors to open.

The wait was worth it since the new 44,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility provides four times the grocery shopping experience compared to the previous store.

"It's amazing," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Neikesha Thompson as she rounded the frozen food aisle. "It's like a super grocery store. With the larger selection my family can enjoy so much more of the food we love."

With the post's growing population, the new commissary – the largest in the Pacific theater – accommodates shoppers with a greater selection of food, dairy, meats and produce compared to what they were accustomed to in the U.S.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, retired Rear Adm. Robert J. Bianchi, DeCA's interim director and CEO, called the new store a real demonstration of DeCA's commitment to take care of service members, and he thanked all those who had a role in making the opening possible.

Lt. Gen. Michael A. Bills, Eighth Army commanding general, also expressed the gratitude of the community for the long-awaited upgrade in a quality of life benefit.

Once the doors opened, the aisles were packed with shoppers as they loaded their carts. Opening day deals and giveaways were added to the experience of being one of the first shoppers in the new store.

"This is definitely worth the trip and the wait," said Marilyn Tassin, who waited an hour outside before the store opened. "It's so much bigger and has all kinds of stuff that just wasn't in the old store."

The new store includes some of the following features:

- Extensive produce, meat, grocery, frozen, dairy and chill departments
- 15 checkouts lanes (three times more than the old store)
- In-store Wi-Fi
- International delicatessen and bakery
- Environmentally friendly and energy-efficient facility

"The store layout is designed to give the customer a pleasant shopping experience on every visit and our staff is eager to help customers locate things in the store," said store director Myong Brown. "It's not enough to just have a new store. We want to provide superior service to go with it."

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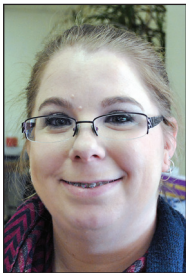
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What’s a good life tip someone gave you?



“Treat others as you want to be treated.”

REBECCA BASIL
JUNCTION CITY, KANSAS

Alternate project manager,
Fort Riley Post Library



“Just live your life and don’t worry too much about what happens.”

CARMEN DAWSON
JUNCTION CITY, KANSAS

Shift manager, The Exchange



“Always do your best.”

PFC. KIM DELA CRUZ
PHILIPPINES

Company E, 1st Attack Reconnaissance
Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st
Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry
Division



“Always believe in yourself.”

SPC. BOBBY FORBES
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Company E, 1st Attack Reconnaissance
Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st
Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry
Division



“Learn how to control your temper.”

PFC. DONG HWAN JEON
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Company B, 601st Aviation Support
Battalion, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st
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SAFETY CORNER

Preventing various types of burns in the workplace

Dawn J. Douglas
GARRISON SAFETY OFFICE

Every year burn injuries contribute to more than 40,000 hospitalizations a year. While the majority of these burns actually occur at home, workplace burns happen too. Awareness, hazard prevention and protection can dramatically lessen the risk of burns in the workplace.

THERMAL BURNS

These are burns caused by the heat from liquids called scalding burns, open flames, hot objects and explosions. The most important priority with thermal burns is controlling and stopping the burning process.

Thermal burns can be prevented by wearing personal protective equipment, using fire prevention tactics and by having procedures and emergency action plans related to fire detection and protection. Workplaces with kitchens or industrial washing operations have the potential for scalding burns. When water heater temperatures are not properly regulated, “scalding” burns can occur quickly and unexpectedly.

CHEMICAL BURNS

These are the result of skin or eyes coming into contact with strong acids, alkaloids or other corrosive or caustic materials that eat away or “burn” skin and deeper tissue. In the workplace, these accidents can occur after exposure to industrial cleaners, such as rust removers or drain cleaners, or chemicals in laboratories or manufacturing workplaces. One of the best ways to prevent chemical burns is to make sure all workers are familiar in hazard

communication, which covers the symbols and labels that will show chemical risk. These labels also include the important information on the steps workers should take to prevent burns if they come into contact with dangerous chemicals. Workers who will come into contact with chemicals should attend the Fort Riley garrison Safety Office’s hazard communication training to understand the labeling requirements, learn more about safety data sheets and know about the global harmonizing system for hazard communications.

ELECTRICAL BURNS

Electrical current travels through body and meets resistance in tissue, resulting in heat burn injuries. To avoid burns from electrical sources, high-voltage areas and machinery should be clearly marked. Workers should also make sure to identify live wires, avoid contact with water while working with electricity and wear the PPE necessary to avoid burns by electricity. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and Army Regulation 385-10, each require all employees to have basic electric awareness training to prevent electrical accidents and injuries. Electrical safety is a part of the Garrison Safety Office OSHA 10-Hour course, which is the required course for Collateral Duty Safety Officers.

SUN EXPOSURE BURNS

While these could technically be considered a thermal burn, sun exposure burns are worthy of special consideration. Employees who work under the sun should be well versed in the sun-safety practices that will keep them safe. They

should take precaution to reduce hours under harsh direct sun, seek shade if possible and wear sun-protective work clothing, hats and sunscreen to reduce the risk of burns from sun exposure.

Burn severity can vary depending on the type of burn and duration of exposure. Burns are categorized as first, second, third or fourth degree.

First-degree burns cause minimal skin damage and are considered superficial since they affect the top layer of the skin. A mild sunburn is an example of this type of burn, where the burn site is red, painful, dry and without blister.

Second-degree burns damage extends beyond the top layer of the skin and can often cause the skin to blister or become extremely red and sore.

Third-degree burns destroy both the epidermis and the dermis. They can also go as deep as to destroying tissue underneath. These burns can appear white or charred.

In a fourth-degree burn, all skin layers are affected. There is also potential for damage to muscle, tendons and bone. Skin grafts do not work on these severe burns, so much so that fourth-degree burns may require amputation if injury occurs in a limb or extremity.

Under the general duty clause of the OSHA act, employers have the responsibility to provide a safe workplace. Supervisors and leaders can help to ensure a safe workplace by providing initial, refresher and hazard communication training.

Initial training should cover not only the hazards that the employee might face on their worksite, but also an overview of

OSHA standards and how to identify hazards that may not have been covered. This 10-hour training is a great way to get a baseline of safety standards training before an employee ever even starts receiving worksite-specific training. Then, employers should make sure that the employees are trained on their specific job functions, including in-depth safety training with any machinery, chemicals or other worksite hazards specific to their job.

Employers should regularly update training with refresher training so that employees are kept updated with standard changes and so that important concepts are kept at top-of-mind.

Fort Riley Reg 385-14 covers the post’s Hazard Communication Program and has the information employers, supervisors and leaders need to ensure they have an effective Hazard Communication program.

Color codes, posters, labels or signs to warn employees of potential hazards are an employer requirement under the OSHA Act, and these vital pieces of hazard communication are extremely important in burn prevention.

Workers should be trained on how to recognize symbols and other hazard communication codes, and GHS communication standards should be used to identify material hazards in a consistent and easily recognizable way. When hazardous chemicals are found in the workplace, employers are also required to produce and provide a written hazard communication plan.

For more information, please call the garrison Fort Riley Safety Office at 785-240-0647.

RECYCLING CENTER

Household chemical collection event scheduled

By Chris Otto
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

The Fort Riley Environmental Division will have a household chemical collection 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 24 at the Child Development Center Parking Lot, 6620 Normandy Drive.

Anyone wanting to turn in or get free household chemical products can stop by the household hazardous waste trailer during the event. Any of the products turned in are available for others who need them for free as a part of Fort Riley’s HHW Program.

This is a great opportunity for anyone moving to or from Fort Riley. Movers will not package or transport household cleaning projects and other HHW, making the products difficult to take with you. If you are clearing quarters, don’t go out and buy new products without checking with the HHW Program first. We may have what you are looking for. New personnel to Fort Riley can pick up items to get them started off for free and save money for more important things than cleaning supplies.

Household chemicals that are improperly stored or disposed of can pose a serious threat to the environment and human health. Some household

Household Chemical Collection

Date: Saturday, Feb. 24.
Time: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Child Development Center Parking Lot, 6620 Normandy Drive

chemicals can have strong reactions if mixed including giving off toxic fumes and starting fires. Household chemicals have been known to harm sanitation workers and start trash fires when thrown in the trash and can contaminate wastewater treatment systems when poured down the drain. Taking the wastes to a HHW facility is the safest disposal option.

If you can’t make this event, don’t worry. You can visit the HHW program at the Environmental Waste Management Center at 1945 Fourth St. in Camp Funston. The EWMC is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Resiliency Days Off.

For any questions on HHW, please call the EWMC at 785-239-6797.

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COLLECTION EVENT

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Main Post Exchange 2210 Hitching Post Rd.

Day: Saturday
Date: 24 February, 2018
Time: 0800-1500

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Automotive Products: Car Wax, Grease, Transmission Fluid, Starter Fluid, Anti-Freeze, Protectant Sprays, Tires, Car Batteries, Brake Fluid, Rust Solvents, Used Oil, Car Cleaning Kits, Lubricant Sprays, Windshield Washer Fluid

Lawn and Garden: Pesticides, Plant Food, Bug Sprays, Recyclables, White Office Paper, Plastics, Glass (all colors), Newspaper, Cardboard, Toner Cartridges, White Styrofoam, Aluminum Cans, Steel Cans, Scrap metal, Used Cooking Grease

Electronics: Phones, Batteries, Light Bulbs, Incandescent light bulbs, Fluorescent Lights, Mercury Light Bulbs, Ballasts, Fuels, MRE Heaters (unused), Gasoline, Camping Fuel, Kerosene, Charcoal, Lighter Fluid, Propane Cylinders

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Tinkey to end seven years of service at USO Fort Riley

By Season Osterfeld
1ST INF. DIV. POST

For seven years, Crystal Tinkey, USO Fort Riley operations and program officer, has dedicated her time and self to serving and assisting service members and their families in whatever ways she can to better their everyday lives.

Tinkey began her career with USO Fort Riley as a volunteer in August 2010, about three months after the center opened. She said she was new to Fort Riley and looking for a way to get involved in the community and heard about volunteering with the USO from other spouses she attended Army Community Service's Resiliency Spouse Academy with.

"I took the Resiliency Spouse Academy – it was actually the second ever class offered at Fort Riley," Tinkey said. "I was new here, new to the military life and culture. I hadn't found a job and decided to take this class to learn more about Fort Riley, about the local area, to meet some people."

After hearing about the volunteer opportunities from the other spouses, she attended the orientation and found herself on the schedule, she said. Shortly thereafter, the operations manager position opened up and she was encouraged to apply. She applied and started her path of bringing new events and opportunities to the center in the position.

Some of those events Tinkey brought to Fort Riley include the monthly No Dough Dinners and Family Game Nights. She said she assessed the needs of service members and their families and created events that could relieve them of one burden or provide a few hours of stress relief to them.

"We want to remove any kind of stresses and really give them that organic opportunity," Tinkey said.

Of those events, she said her favorites have been No Dough Dinners they held in collaboration with other organizations on and off the installation. They brought communities together and showed service members and their families what's available to them and the support systems they have here.

"The off-site collaborative No Dough Dinners (are my favorite)," Tinkey said. "We've done one over at the fire station,



Crystal Tinkey

one at the Recycling Center and that was over six years ago. Really, when we get to go out of the norm and work with other partners and be able to enhance an event, whether it's Victory Week No Dough Dinner where we've got Dillons with the ribs or we're bringing in a bounce house ... Really, the more the merrier, I would say those are my favorite."

But others would argue it's more than the community that makes USO events a success. Scott Payne, USO Fort Riley director, said it's Tinkey herself who makes them amazing.

"She is very passionate about helping people and it's not just the military – it's everybody," he said. "She puts everybody first – her family and people she doesn't even know."

Payne said Tinkey's dedication and enthusiasm for what she does inspires him and others.

"She's just really committed," he said. "She's really committed to supporting the military. As long as I've known her she has been. I think that's why she's been here for seven years ... That's one of the reason I come to work every day because she's so passionate about what she does. She is the positive in the work. Personal sacrifices of time. She spends so many nights, weekends resourcing, doing last minute planning for events because they just came up. Even if it's for a program of five or 500, she puts the same amount of effort into any size service or program. You can tell she really enjoys it."

For Tinkey, she said her passion comes from her desire to assist service members and their families in any way she can because she loves seeing the genuine relief or joy on their faces when she was able to be there for them – no matter how small or grand a gesture it was.

"When you know you've made that difference, when you know that you've made an impact and (they) turnaround and say genuinely, 'thank you,' you know you've made a difference – that's what I love."

CRYSTAL TINKEY | USO
FORT RILEY OPERATIONS
AND PROGRAM
OFFICER

"When you know you've made a difference, and it's the little things – I recently came across a card from a few years ago," she said. "We had received a message on our Facebook page and it was a spouse who said, 'I don't remember who I talked to, but some lady told me to stop back at the USO if I needed anything' and I responded, 'oh, that was me. I put some extra items aside for your family.' ... I could see that she needed that little extra something and she turned around at the end of that and said, 'I can't do much for you, but I want to tell you how much I appreciate you. My kids and I would like to make you a card.' And that handmade card, that coloring page, means more to me than any accolade, any award on the wall because there's so many things. This is just what we do and it's more than just a job."

In the interview, Tinkey paused through her story to wipe away tears and choke back sobs.

"When you know you've made that difference, when you know that you've made an impact and (they) turnaround and say genuinely, 'thank you,' you know you've made a difference – that's what I love," she said.

After seven years, Tinkey is leaving Fort Riley to move with her family to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. While she won't be working with the USO, she said she plans to continue volunteering with them, but for now, she'll focus on spending times with her daughters.

3 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR TAX REFUND

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- 2 The law requires the IRS to hold the entire refund - even the portion not associated with the EITC and ACTC - until at least February 15, 2017.
- 3 New identity theft and refund fraud safeguards by the IRS may mean some tax returns and refunds face additional review.

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MEET THE GARRISON DIRECTORS

Richard Hearron: installation safety manager and retired command sergeant major

By Kalene Lozick
1ST INF. DIV. POST

“I give a lot of who I am to the Army,” said Richard Hearron, installation safety manager and retired command sergeant major. He gave 30 years and 13 days to the Army as he rose through the ranks until he landed the position as the installation safety manager of Fort Riley.

“What prepared me to reassume a leadership role (was) my 30 years of service in the Army,” he said. “That probably helped me quite a lot. I was used to being in the leadership role so it was a matter of time until I reassumed that leadership position.”

He said he retired as the 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley’s command sergeant major.

“I joined the military right after high school,” he said. “I made it through all the normal progression through the (noncommissioned officer) ranks. I deployed to Desert Storm and after returning from Desert Storm I was

selected to be on the inspector general team working in the Pentagon. After 18 months in that position, I was selected to be a command sergeant major. and assigned to Fort Riley. So I packed up the family and came to Fort Riley. My wife and I made the decision this would be our final duty assignment.”

He said it amazed him that at Fort Riley he served in a battalion, then a brigade and finally at division as the command sergeant major at the same installation. He said it is pretty hard to ride the ranks like that in today’s Army.

With his years at Fort Riley, he said he served under three commanding generals while he was at the division level. Maj. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, commanding general 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) was among the three.

“I knew (Maj.) Gen. Hardy during Desert Storm, he was my squadron commander when I was a first sergeant,” he said.

Before joining the Fort Riley garrison team, Hearron

served as a safety officer during his 30 years of service.

“He’s being modest but Mr. Rick is a brigade safety officer (who) received the medal during the Global War on Terrorism,” said Dawn Douglas, safety and occupational health specialist with the garrison safety office. “He actually deployed as a brigade safety (officer) in the thick of the fight during the Desert Storm.”

Douglas said this was a new situation for civilians for they didn’t have a safety professional with combat aid experience.

Giving back to the Soldiers is something that drives Hearron.

“That’s why I enjoy this job, because Soldiers, family members are our top customer,” Hearron said. “So I talk with, I deal with, I support Soldiers and their family members on a daily basis and I enjoy it. It keeps me involved.”

Hearron went to Fort Rucker, Alabama for the Army Safety and Occupational Health Career

Program, known as CP-12, for 9 months.

Douglas said after completion of the course Hearron received honor role.

“I was in a unique class because the Army was just starting (to have) safety professionals in the brigades,” Hearron said. “So when I was hired on and I went to Fort Rucker for school the majority of my class were hired military because we were all going into the brigade to do great things, get deployed and save lives.”

Throughout the course, Hearron said he learned all aspects of safety and occupational health. He said it wasn’t just risk assessment but everything that dealt with environmental assessments to safety in confined space and hospital safety.

One advice he said he wants to give Soldiers is to keep doing what is right even if no one is looking.

“I was a Soldier for 30 years — once a Soldier always a Soldier — so I just enjoy helping Soldiers and family members,” Hearron said.



COURTESY PHOTOS
ABOVE: Richard Hearron, left, installation safety manager and retired command sergeant major, briefs his deputy, Ronald Clasberry on safety operations. BELOW: Richard Hearron, left, installation safety manager and retired command sergeant major, briefs Fort Riley Garrison Commander Col. John D. Lawrence on the use of the Seat Belt Convincer.



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/

SUICIDE PREVENTION

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Phase two of Energy Saving Performance Contract underway

By Andy Massanet
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Phase two of Fort Riley's Energy Savings Performance Contract is underway and a Q&A session for the general public is scheduled between 2 and 3 p.m., Feb. 21, at building 337, room 113.

The session will combine with the Feasibility Study phase, energy audits and conservation studies of the ESPC and this information will help staff of Fort Riley's Directorate of Public Works make cost effective decisions regarding upgrades in post buildings, said Hadassa Baker, mechanical engineer for the operations and maintenance division, DPW.

Those upgrades can conserve millions of dollars in energy cost savings, she said.

"The work in the first phase is estimated to save \$2.4 million annually in energy and operational costs," Baker said.

That first phase, which involved buildings at Custer Hill, is in construction, Baker said. "Southland (Energy) was then awarded the NTP (Notice To Proceed) on the second phase on Nov. 16, 2017, which will continue through July 2018," she added.

With the first weeks of 2018 marching on, phase two of the ESPC is underway and it will move off Custer Hill to include other areas of the post.

"The effort will involve teams of engineers conducting facility audits in buildings on Main Post, Camp Funston, Camp Whiteside and Marshall Army Airfield," Baker said.

Along with the facility energy audits, which make recommendations about what work is necessary to create more energy efficient facilities, phase two will involve a feasibility study that will help DPW staff decide whether those recommendations are possible.

"Any improvements we make will have to pay for themselves through utility cost savings," she said.

"The question-and-answer session is a component to this effort and is intended to gather input from the Fort Riley community, as well as ensure all involved understand the potential impact to their daily operations," said Mike Witmer, Utilities and Energy Branch Chief of DPW.

As with the earlier work on Custer Hill, Fort Riley has partnered with Southland Energy to make energy efficiency improvements, Witmer said.

"This project will not only help us achieve the targeted energy and operational savings, it will also make Fort Riley a better place to live and train for our service members, civilians and their families," Witmer said.

"Our goal is to bring awareness of this large-scale project and provide a question-answer session for those interested."

Those are interested in attending the Q&A session, can email Baker at Hadassa.m.baker.civ@mail.mil.

WWW.RILEY.ARMY.MIL

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Baked Chicken Sr. Size \$7.00 Reg. \$8.00 Inc Tax	Beef tips over Noodles Sr. Size \$7.00 Reg. \$8.00 Inc Tax	Salisbury Steak Sr. Size \$7.00 Reg. \$8.00 Inc Tax	Fried Chicken Sr. Size \$7.00 Reg. \$8.00 Inc Tax	Roast Beef and Liver & Onion Sr. Size \$7.00 Reg. \$8.00 Inc Tax	Cooks Choice	FEB 18th • Roast Beef • Chicken Fried Chicken • Roast Pork Sr. Size \$8.00 Reg. \$9.00 Inc Tax

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The Fort Riley Post Library was the place for this Valentine's Day Party Feb. 10. Volunteers from the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program helped children make Valentines.

ICING ON THE CAKE

Volunteers, families find bonds at post library's holiday get-together

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

Fort Riley Post Library was buzzing with excitement during their Valentine's Day Party Feb. 10. Kids were busy putting their creative spin on glittery Valentine's Day cards while parents chatted away exchanging information on their lives before and during their time at Fort Riley.

Apart from the families and library staff at the event, there were also volunteers helping out. Sgt. Janette Blunt, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, dedicated her afternoon on behalf of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers to help out at the Valentine's Day bash.

This was the first time she was volunteering at the library, Blunt said. She said prior to that event, she wasn't aware of the facility.

"It's kind of like a hidden treasure because I didn't know it was here before," she said. "I like that

See CAKE, page 12



Kal-el Barber, 4, son of Staff Sgt. Jerrell Barber, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, lays down heart-shaped tiles during a game of bingo at the Fort Riley Post Library Valentine's Day Party Feb. 10. The free event brought families together to network and kids to create Valentines for their loved ones.

"This is the first time I've worked with (this many) kids before. It's fun to create Valentine's Day cards, and just to see the kids' creativity and the love they have for their families and their friends — it's really sweet."

SGT. JANETTE BLUNT

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT, 1ST ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

ON TAP

- The next free library events are **Library Movie Night** at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 24 and **St. Patrick's Day Party** at 1 p.m. March 10. The Fort Riley Post Library is at 5306 Hood Drive.

Showering mothers with info, gifts

USO Fort Riley-hosted baby shower event, an eye-opener for moms

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

From just a few weeks along to six months postpartum, more than 75 moms and moms-to-be gathered for the USO Fort Riley What to Expect and Target Present Special Delivery Baby Shower Feb. 7 at Riley's Conference Center.

The event was hosted by staff of USO Fort Riley, representatives from USO Worldwide Headquarters in Arlington, Texas, and Heidi Murkoff, author of the "What to Expect" book series. Attendees played games and sculpted baby and motherhood themed artwork out of modeling clay while they ate lunch and talked with Murkoff.



Moms and soon-to-be moms gather information and a gift bag from representatives of the Army Community Service New Parent Support program during the USO What to Expect and Target Present Special Delivery Baby Shower Feb. 7 at Riley's Conference Center. Representatives from the New Parent Support program at Army Community Service also attended to provide a bag of baby items, ample information packets and offer details of the classes and support groups they provide to the moms.

"We travel around the world to military installations and throw these awesome baby showers," said Jessica Hirsch, program manager

ment specialist, USO World Headquarters. "Today, they're playing games, their having lunch, they're networking together."

"We travel around the world to military installations and throw these awesome baby showers."

JESSICA HIRSCH
SPECIALIST, USO WORLD HEADQUARTERS

Fort Riley was the 108th baby shower thrown since the program began in 2013, Hirsch said. This year they plan to visit 25 installations worldwide and host about 35 showers.

Attendees were seated at tables together in groups to talk about each other's experiences, exchange questions and create new friendships, said

See MOTHERS, page 12

Soldiers, families get taste of the finer things in life

Riley's Conference Center plays host to wine, bourbon fest

By Kalene Lozick
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The 1st Infantry Division Band played jazz throughout the evening as attendees sipped their wine and bourbon at Riley's Conference Center during the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Wine and Bourbon Fest Feb. 9.

Christian Bishop, manager at Riley's Conference Center, said this was the first year they are offering bourbon tasting. She said this was to wanted to encourage more husbands and males to come out.

QUITE THE TURNOUT

- Officials said more than **100 tickets** were sold for the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Wine and Bourbon Fest Feb. 9.

"This year I am pretty excited," Bishop said. "We have bourbon(distillers) from Dodge City (Kansas) to hear their story."

The bourbon menu consisted of spirits from Eagle Rare, Buffalo Trace, Tin Cup, Basil Hayden, Boot Hill and Kansas Whiskey.

She said each drink ticket entitled attendees with eight tasters of wine and bourbon.

See TASTE, page 11

FORT RILEY POST-ITS

PARENT AND CHILD CRAFT CLASS

The Arts and Crafts Center, 6918 Trooper Drive, will have a parent and child craft class Feb. 18 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The craft of the day is painting an owl on canvas.

Classes are divided by age and advanced registration is required. It is \$8 per painting. To register or for more information, call 785-239-9205.



EXTREME BOWLING

Bowl under black lights at Custer Hill Bowling Center's cosmic bowling Feb. 16. The event starts at 6 p.m and ends five minutes before midnight. It is \$17 an hour for up to six players per lane. For more information, call 785-239-4366.

BUBBLE GUPPIES

The Fort Riley MWR is hosting Bubble Guppies at Eyster Pool Feb. 17 between 9 and 10 a.m.

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

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

YOUTH CENTER DANCE

Put on your dancing shoes and head over to Youth Services at 5800 Thomas Ave. Feb. 16.

This fun, family-friendly social is open to Middle School and Teen Program members and their guests.

Admission is \$1 for members and \$2 for their guests. For more information, call 785-239-9222.

COCKTAILS AND CANVASES

Looking for a fun night out? Paint and sip at this month's cocktails and canvases Feb. 23.

The event is at Riley's Conference Center and doors open at 6 p.m. Painting starts at 7 p.m. Admission is \$25 per person and includes supplies, instruction and one beverage ticket.

Advance tickers purchase is recommended. For more information, call 785-784-1000.



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.

TACO TUESDAY

Let's taco bout getting some grub for lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Jan. 22, at Riley's Conference Center.

The all-you-can-eat meal includes choice of meat, hard and soft shell tacos, salsa bar, rice, beans, salad bar and dessert.

The buffet costs \$9.95, which includes a drinks. Salad bar only is \$5.95. For more information 785-784-1000.

INTRODUCTORY SPORT SHOOTING

Get the skills and learn the safety procedures of sport shooting trap or skeet at the Skeet and Trap Range, Range 34 Vinton School Road.

The class costs \$20 and includes instruction, rental firearm, ammunition, ear protection and eye protection. Advance registration is required and can be done at the Outdoor Adventure and Travel Center, 5202 Normandy Drive.

For more information, call 785-239-2363.

BOGA FIT

Workout your core, stamina and balance with BOGA Fit at Eyster Pool Feb. 17 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

This full-body workout is where you stand on a secured floating mat on 5 feet of water.

Class is limited to 12 mats; spaces available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call 785-239-4855

USO NO DOUGH DINNER

USO Fort Riley is hosting a No Dough Dinner Feb. 27 at 100 Manhattan Town Center from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The No Dough Dinner is a free dinner to active-duty military and their families.

Burgers and hotdogs will be served. Reservations are suggested for planning purposes.

For more information, call 785-240-5326



FORT RILEY REEL TIME THEATER SCHEDULE

Friday, Feb. 16
Den of Thieves (R) 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 17
12 Strong (R) 2 p.m.
Den of Thieves (R) 7 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 18
Proud Mary (R) 5 p.m.

Theater opens 30 minutes before first showing
For more information, call 785-239-9574.

Regular Showing: \$6
3D Showing: \$8
First Run: \$8.25
3D First Run: \$10.25

BLUE STAR PROGRAM

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



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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

Improving heart health needs year-round commitment

By Col. John D. Lawrence
FORT RILEY GARRISON COMMANDER

We celebrated Valentine's Day this week, but the focus on hearts isn't over. February is American Heart Month, an ideal time to remind ourselves about healthy habits to halt harm to our hearts.

The statistics from the American Heart Association are hard to ignore:



Colonel Lawrence

- 103 million adults in our country have high blood pressure and the number of deaths related to it have risen 38 percent in 10 years
 - 16.5 million Americans age 20 and older are living with coronary heart disease
 - 23 million adults have Type 2 diabetes
 - 1 million people will have a heart attack or die from coronary heart disease this year
 - 795,000 people will have a stroke this year
 - 38 percent of adults are considered obese
- There are ways to avoid and prevent heart problems.

A good approach is to start with "Life's Simple 7" — get active, control cholesterol, eat better, manage blood pressure, lose weight, reduce blood sugar and stop smoking. Learn more about each of these steps at www.heart.org.

Sometimes those of us in the military are complacent about heart health because we believe we're young, active and are constantly busy with fitness requirements and training. Additionally, we tend to be more focused on other life requirements like work, family and fun. We need to remember that keeping healthy on the inside is important too.

Fort Riley is home to a ton of resources to help you make a plan and achieve goals toward a healthy lifestyle. For example, Army Wellness Center experts can assess where you're at now and work with you to create a plan to live healthier. They provide assessments for health, physical fitness and nutrition, stress management, general wellness and tobacco education. They also have two classes — "Fueling for Health" and "Meals in Minutes" — that teach students about calories, nutrients and food choices. For more information, call the AWC at 785-239-7644.

Irwin Army Community Hospital's Nutrition Care Division also offers a broad range of nutritional services for active duty Soldiers, families and retirees. Their number is 785-239-7644.

On the fitness and exercise side of the house, check out the numerous facilities and services offered through the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation. You can exercise at your own pace on your own schedule or, to get a little more motivation, join in MWR's fitness classes or intramural sports programs. Visit riley.armymwr.com/categories/sports-and-fitness for complete information.

When it comes to exercise, the best program is one that includes activities you like to do. That way you're more likely to stick to the plan and make it part of your regular lifestyle.

Continue to focus on the heart and make it a year-round, life-long commitment to exercise, eat right, quit smoking and manage stress. Even small changes each day can add up to big benefits for your all-around health inside and out.

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



Cpl. Austin Mensing, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, won a high-value pool cue at the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers pool tournament Feb. 9 at the Warrior Zone. The bi-weekly event will offer the high-value pool cue as a trophy as an incentive to compete week after week.

Soldiers break routine with pool tourneys

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

Soldiers lined up their pool cue during the Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers bi-weekly pool tournament Feb. 9.

Pfc. Cody Seiler, BOSS secretary and 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, said BOSS and the Warrior Zone partner to provide Soldiers the opportunity to play pool every other Friday.

The pool tournament rules remain the same week to week. To Soldiers who have never played the game before, Seiler said the rules can be explained.

The rules of the game is the best two out of three games move forward to the final round where the tournament is won by winning three out of five games.

"It's pretty much what ball handling means, any terminology they don't know and how the prize works," he said. "Ours

is different than the way the Warrior Zone does theirs."

He said until they have gift cards to offer the winner of the pool tournament, BOSS will have a pool cue that is of high-value from the billiard shop in Junction City, Kansas, that the Soldier will be able to use, like a trophy.

"They are only allowed to use it until the next tournament," Seiler said. "That way they are able to win it back."

The winner of Feb. 9 pool tournament was Cpl. Austin Mensing, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div. He said he likes to play pool.

"It's been a hobby I've had for the last three years in the Army," Mensing said. "It's my favorite pastime."

For more information upcoming pool tournaments, visit BOSS and the Warrior Zone Facebook page at www.facebook.com/rileybosszw.

WORSHIP	
Protestant Services	
Victory Chapel	239-0834
Contemporary Protestant Service	
Sunday Worship.....	1100
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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	
Kaparnu 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. Wardrobe provided for birth-2yrs.	
Club Beyond - Faith Based Youth Program (PWOC)	
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-Profit Entity and is not part of the DoD or any of its components and it has no government name.	
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	
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For more information email glgprocc@gmail.com or Facebook "Fort Riley PWOC"	
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For more information email fortrileycwoc@gmail.com or Facebook "Fort Riley CWOC"	
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TUESDAY TRIVIA CONTEST



The question for the week of Feb. 13 was: Where might I find information about the Army Substance Abuse Program?

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

This week's winner is Erica Minton, spouse of Sgt. Steve Minton, of the 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

Above are Erica and Sgt. Minton, along with their two children Maverick and Alexis.

CONGRATULATIONS ERICA!

Brookshire's responsibilities run gamut

Army Community Service advocate learns joy of bundling

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

The many hats of Jane Brookshire may look overwhelming to most, but to her she is only doing her job. It all started when she was first a military spouse. She said she experienced the first-hand importance of a community, so she tries to create that for Soldiers and spouses alike.

"I am responsible for Army Family Team Building Program, the Resiliency Spouse Academy, the Spouse Resiliency Training," Brookshire said. "Then I am the program manager of Army Family Action Plan and I currently am the interim Army volunteer co-coordinator."

She said the AFTB, RSA, SRT and AFAP are a bunch of classes she teaches. In short, she said she typically bundles everything up in AFTB.

"Like the Resiliency Spouses Academy and the MRT," she said. "I just roll that up in AFTB ... because they are just classes. They are not full programs. (RSA and MRT) I only (teach) quarterly ... However, I am available by request."

She said she partners with the 923rd Contracting Battalion over at Mission and Installation Contracting Command — Camp Funston.

"I do MRT at their town hall (meetings) to help with the employee relations," she said. "So everything I offer is available by request."

LEADING UP TO FORT RILEY

Before the hats, Brookshire began reading dozens of books to learn about the various resources at Army Community Service within the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"Fun fact, I have only worked at the 1st Infantry Division for my entire federal career — I have followed them



Jane Brookshire is a wife, mother, daughter and is certified to teach a plethora of courses offered at Army Community Service. Her passion to teach, she said, began with her mother who was a teacher.

"My mom is a teacher. So I was raised with (the idea) of you don't do something because you're scared of doing it. You learn about it so you're not scared and then you do it."

JANE BROOKSHIRE | ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE

from Germany," she said. "I always thought that was funny because I worked for (1st Inf. Div.) in Germany."

She said she was originally hired to do reintegration and pre-deployment briefs. She was a unit service coordinator, but she said her area was mobilization and deployment. While working in Germany, she gained experience from many ACS organizations she worked with because of revolving nature of staffing where people move away and going on leave often.

"I did all of this during the surge in 2006 to 2007," she said. "I covered down on the Employment Readiness Program, then I did (Army Emergency Relief), because we were all double and triple hatted in Germany because we were a small ACS ... When I came here (to Fort Riley), I was FRSA for 1st (Inf. Div.) Sustainment Brigade and (1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div.) and for both of their deployments to Afghanistan."

After working with the units, she said the opportunity to work at ACS.

"Then they say the rest is history," Brookshire said.

SOMETHING FROM NOTHING

When Brookshire first worked at ACS in Germany, she said she knew nothing about the military. Yet that did not stop her. In fact, she said they made her read dozens of textbooks. To this day, she said she will read about a topic if she doesn't know about it.

Tish Hampton, co-volunteer program manager at ACS, said it's hard to describe Brookshire.

"She is certified in everything," Hampton said. "I don't know where she gets this energy from — happy, happy, happy. I don't know how to describe Jane, (just that) she's awesome."

Brookshire said the first few months after hired at ACS she was required to read about deployments, separation anxiety or anything else they gave her.

"I wasn't allowed to answer phone calls, I wasn't allowed to talk to anyone," she said with a smile. "I was literally given an office and a stack of books. So I read about the military."

Growing up her mother instilled a concept that she said is what runs her passion to help others.

"My mom is a teacher," she said. "So I was raised with (the idea) of you don't do something because you're scared of doing it. You learn about it so you're not scared and then you do it."

POWER OF INFORMATION

She said because once the information is gathered, it is empowering.

"Knowledge is power because you are no longer fearful of that situation because you know what to expect," she said. "You can go in with the right questions. You can go in knowing what questions to even ask or know what is out there. (So in case) anything does happen, you know where to go."

That knowledge she said lightens the loads of the military lifestyle. The knowledge at an installation leads to knowing systems are in place and what resources are out there, she said.

"The immensity of your situation is not as bad because you know what is available," she said. "So when there is someone who finds out their spouse is deploying that can be very big if you've never gone through it ... it can be very foreign to you."

The knowledge is what allows people to be proactive with their time at Fort Riley, Brookshire said.

"Be proactive and learn the resources that are available to you," she said. "Then that deployment doesn't seem as bad because you know that 'yes, this would happen,' but that is OK because I have an Army family (and) they are going to take care of me."

She said the best foundational course offered is Military 101, followed by Resilient Spouse Academy and Spouse Resiliency Training.

TASTE Continued from page 9



Kalene Lozick | POST

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation held its annual Wine and Bourbon Fest Feb. 9 at Riley's Conference Center where more than 100 attendees tasted local wine and — for the first time — bourbon.

"And this year, we have a (designated driver) ticket," Bishop said. "The DD ticket is an extra motivation to encourage people to come up and not have the pressure to drink. So with the DD tickets we have four different root beer floats they can have instead of the wine (and bourbon)."

To pair with the drinks, Riley's Conference Center offered cheese and fruit trays and an array of appetizers prepared by Mark Gutowski, head chef at Riley's Conference Center. Such appetizers included stuffed mushrooms and cordon bleu medallions.

Among the attendees were Natisha Saul with LaRey Freeman, wife of Spc. Eric Freeman.

"I came to the last one they had two years ago and it was great," Freeman said.

Freeman said the moment she saw the event this year she tagged her friend Saul on Facebook.

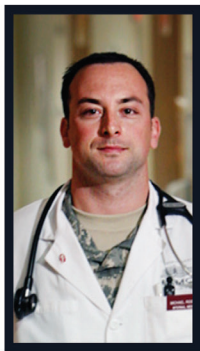
"I've been to wineries before and they don't have the varieties as they have here," Saul said.

The wine menu included, but not limited to, the following whites, reds, blush and sangria wines: Noble Vines The One Red Blend, 19 Crimes Red Blend, Castello Del Poggio Red, Eppa SupraFruta Sangria, Wyldewood Elderberry, Stella Rosa Black, Josh Cellars Rosé, Ménage à Trois Rosé, Dark House Rosé, Cupcake Moscato d'Asti, Stella Rosa Berry and Prophecy Sauvignon Blanc.

In total, Bishop said DFM-WR sold more than 100 tickets to the event.

Irwin Army Community Hospital

Missed appointments are missed opportunities for others.



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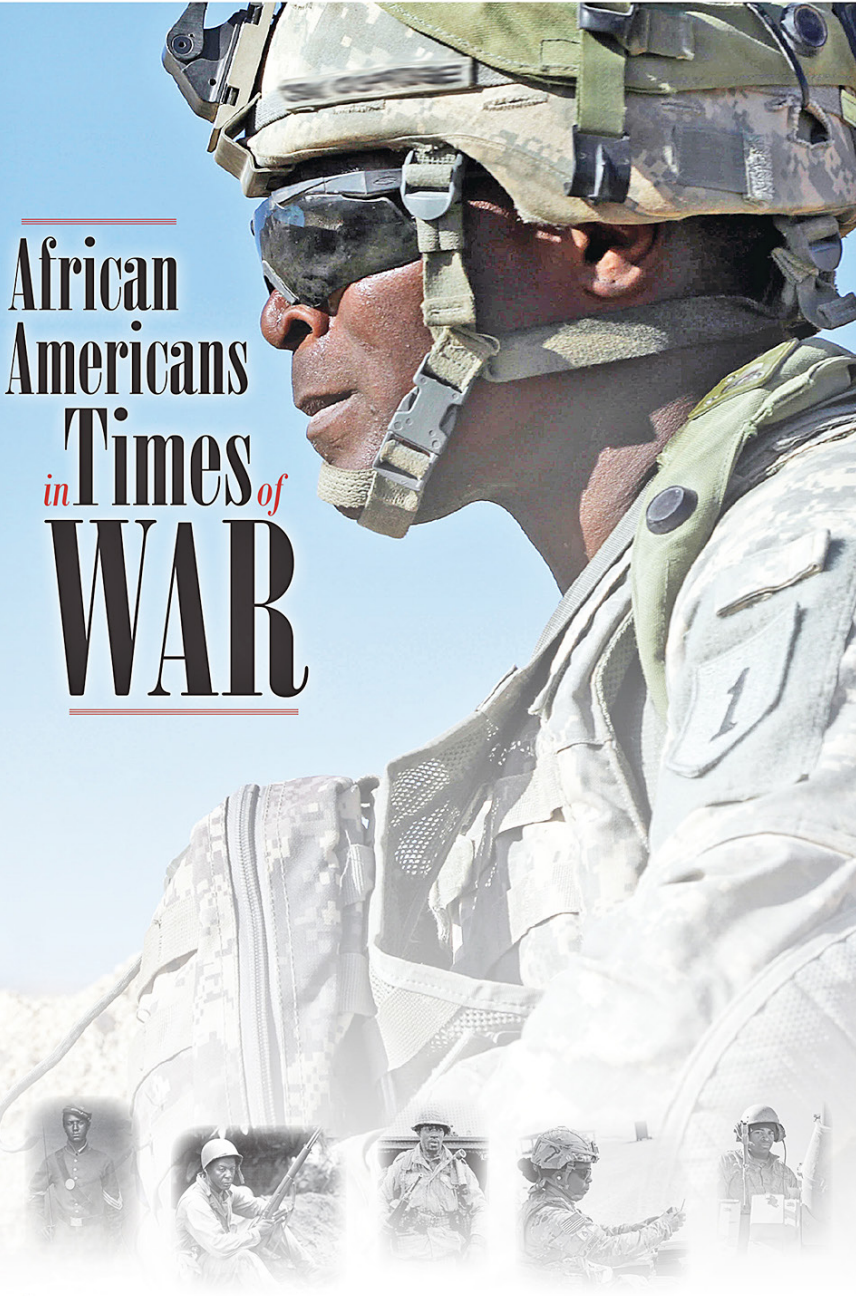
- Eat a healthy, low-fat diet (add fiber, cut cholesterol and eat more fish)
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Exercise regularly and often
- Don't smoke
- Limit alcohol use
- Avoid stress
- Have cholesterol checked
- Monitor blood pressure
- Manage diabetes
- Take your medicine
- Get enough sleep

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention:
www.cdc.gov/heartdisease
- American Heart Association:
www.americanheart.org
- Irwin Army Community Hospital:
iach.amedd.army.mil/

[NO MISSION TOO DIFFICULT, NO SACRIFICE TOO GREAT — DUTY FIRST!]

BLACK HISTORY MONTH · FEBRUARY 2018



African
Americans
in Times of
WAR

WHAT: Black History Month Observance | WHEN: Noon Feb. 21 | WHERE: Barlow Theater

MOTHERS

Continued from page 9

Crystal Tinkey, USO Fort Riley operations and program officer.

“I think because it’s difficult when you’re not only a military spouse or service member — we’ve got a lot of service members here today — you’re in different areas, you’re not necessarily near your immediate family and have that direct support system like you would normally, so by putting on this event, we’re not only providing information, but we’re connecting our military connected moms with other military connected moms,” she said. “Whether it’s their first time or their fifth time so everyone can share their experiences and meet new people to really foster and build community and keep them connected.”

Hirsch agreed with Tinkey and said the program started specifically to help moms get the information and community they need wherever they are.

“Not every mom is going to get a baby shower,” she said. “Not everyone has their mom or best friend close by to throw one for them, so if you just (had a Permanent Change of Station) here and don’t know anyone, come to this baby shower and get some presents and make some new friends.”

Tinkey said they scheduled the event to match up with an expected baby boom after 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, returned from a deployment in mid-2017.

“For us locally, it’s one of the programs that we offer under our USO umbrella worldwide, so we knew with the return of 1st Brigade, we often see a baby boom after a deployment, so we did some math and calculating what the bets time might be able to be to have a shower,” she said.

Throughout the shower, raffle drawings were held for gift baskets, a pack and play, stroller, car seat and baby wraps.

For soon-to-be first-time moms Spc. Denika Lawrence and Pfc. Fadeline Aulibrice, both from 601st Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., the shower provided a wealth of information to them from the question and answer sessions with Murkoff and being able to talk with the other mothers they were seated with.

“The information about breast-feeding (was beneficial and) especially sitting around the table with different people, they spoke and told me about their experiences — that was really helpful,” Lawrence said.

Representatives from the New Parent Support program at Army Community Service

also attended to provide a bag of baby items, ample information packets and offer details of the classes and support groups they provide to the moms.

“New Parent Support program through Army Community Service were able to join us today with some of their great programs and information for parents here on Fort Riley,” Tinkey said. “It is called New Parent Support, but it’s not limited to their first child. It could be their first or their fifth. They have a plethora of resources available from classes to information and resources.”

As each attendee left, they received a tote bag that included a changing pad, a copy of “Peter Rabbit,” a \$25 gift card and a gift basket of baby hygiene and essentials kit. They also received a copy of one of the “What to Expect” books signed by Murkoff.



Season Osterfeld | POST

A mother holds her sleeping infant during the USO What to Expect and Target Present Special Delivery Baby Shower Feb. 7 at Riley’s Conference Center. Attendees were seated at tables together in groups, whether they knew one another or not, to talk about each others’ experiences, exchange questions and create new friendships, said Crystal Tinkey, USO Fort Riley operations and program officer.

CAKE

Continued from page 9



Suet Lee-Growney | POST

Clockwise from right: Staff Sgt. Israel Lopez, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division; his daughters Amorah, 2, and Aamirah, 6; and his wife Janea Lopez take part in making a Valentine’s Card at the Fort Riley Post Library Valentine’s Day Party Feb. 10.

we can do stuff like this to help with the kids. It’s fun.”

Blunt and another fellow BOSS volunteer sat at the crafting table and assisted children in making Valentines. They pulled out all the stops with writing, putting stickers, adding glitter and drawing shapes. This was also Blunt’s first time volunteering at a family-friendly event.

“This is the first time I’ve worked with (this many) kids before,” she said. “It’s fun to create Valentine’s Day cards, and just to see the kids’ creativity and the love they have for their families and their friends — it’s really sweet.”

Blunt said an event like this is a great way for families to get out of the house, have some fun with the youngsters and socialize. Echoing her sentiments

was Terri Seaman, library contract manager.

“It gives the parents a chance to socialize and the kids a chance to socialize,” Seaman said. “It helps families get out and have something to do that’s free.”

An event like this with free kid-friendly arts and crafts party also serves as a place for parents to link up and learn more about the area, Seaman said.

“Because the population here is so rotative, a lot of the parents that we get here this week are brand new parents — brand new to the library and haven’t had a chance to meet with some of the other parents,” she said. “And then we have people who’ve been here for two or three years and they go and they talk to each other, and they introduce each other

and it gives the new parents a chance to find out what’s on Fort Riley and what they can do here.”

There were about 100 people who came by the library for the Valentine’s Day party that afternoon, according to Seaman. But she said people don’t all show up at once like their Easter egg parties. They would drop in for a while throughout the event.

“With these parties, it’s usually a steady flow,” she said. “We’ll get about 100 or 150 people, but it’ll just be a steady flow of people coming and going.”

The next free library events are Library Movie Night at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 24 and St. Patrick’s Day Party 1 p.m. March 10. The Fort Riley Post Library is at 5306 Hood Drive.



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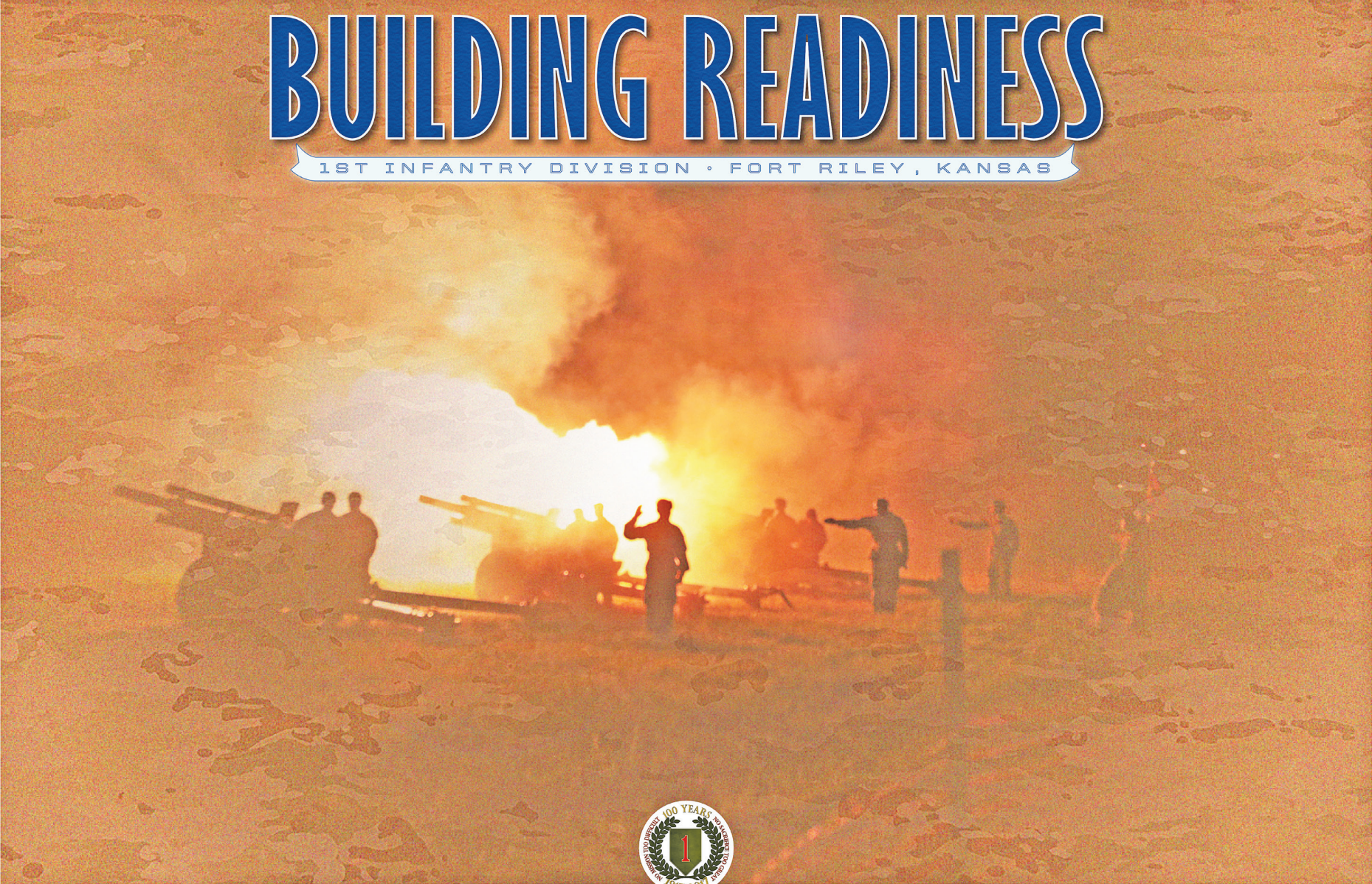
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Travel & Fun in Kansas



Spc. Shell wants you to check out next week's Travel & Fun in Manhattan

★ FEBRUARY 16, 2018

HOME OF THE BIG RED ONE

PAGE 14 ★



JUNCTION CITY

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

Junction City, founded in 1858, got its name from the confluence of the Republican and Smoky Hill Rivers. Located right outside the gates of Fort Riley, the town is a convenient place to look for hidden gems in fun and history.

You're not really in Kansas until you've visited a farm — and they are everywhere. Hildebrand Farms Dairy at 5210 W. Rucker Road produces and processes dairy products onsite. They churn out 10 varieties of milk: whole, 2 percent, skim, creamline, which is non-homogenized whole milk, chocolate, strawberry, root beer, mocha, eggnog and cream. They also make three varieties of butter in glass jars as well as vanilla and chocolate ice cream mix.

The family-owned operation loves showing off their cows that give them the milk they are known for and tours can be arranged. During tours, visitors can walk through the milk, free-stall and calf barns and dairy processing plant. Each tour includes milk samples and a soft-serve ice-cream cone at the end.

Store hours are Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit hildebrandfarmsdairy.com or call 782-238-8029 or 785-762-6455.

Another farm in the area is Munson Angus Farms and Black Horse Hitch. This agro-tourism farm is at 4820 Liberty Hall Road. Tours can be arranged to fully enjoy the beauty of this farm and visitors get to see how modern technology meets traditional ways of farming. Apart from seeing the cattle, patrons can enjoy a farm-to-table country meal served with black angus beef cuisine straight from the source.

Perhaps the most attractive part of the property and namesake is the horse-drawn farm tour. A 25-foot carriage is pulled by a team of black Percheron draft horses.

These gentle giants are dressed in matching black leather and chrome-studded harnesses. For more information on tours and hours, call 785-238-8068 or visit www.facebook.com/Munson-Angus-Farms-Black-Horse-Hitch-249035678487947.

Geary County Historical Society and Museums holds the keys to the past of not only Junction City but also Fort Riley since the two are in close proximity. The museums are a great place to learn about things that shaped the town into what it is today. The museum system's mission is to preserve, collect, disseminate and recognize artifacts and information pertaining to Geary County.

The main museum at 530 N. Adams St. is three floors and houses both rotational and permanent collections. Currently, a Smithsonian travelling exhibit "Water/Ways" is open for free to the public. The show will go on until Feb. 18. Other satellite museum locations around Junction City are Spring Valley School House historic site at the corner of Highway 18 and Spring Valley Road, Saint Joseph Historic Church and Cemetery at 1170 State Route 668 and Starcke House at 306 W. 5th St.

Aside from the rich history and vast grasslands, Junction City is no stranger to arts and culture. C.L. Hoover Opera House at 135 W. Seventh St. has been a cultural landmark since 1858 and is celebrating its 120th anniversary this year. This event space houses popular musicals, shows, symphonies, private events and civic activities as well as cultural and educational opportunities. Several of the resident organizations that perform in the opera house are Junction City Little Theater, Junction City Arts Council and Junction City Community Band.

To purchase tickets and find more information on upcoming events at the C.L. Hoover Opera House, visit www.jcoperahouse.org or call 785-238-3906.

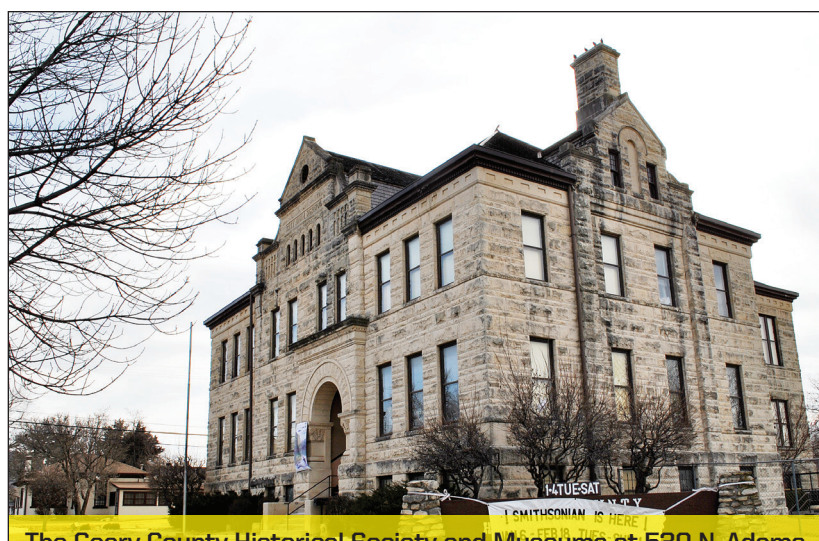


The Kansas Law Enforcement monument is in Heritage Park at the corner of Washington and Sixth Streets in Junction City. The monument was erected to honor law enforcement personnel who have given their lives in the service to Junction City and Geary County.

The C.L. Hoover Opera House is a cultural landmark to Junction City since 1858. The multi-event facility is celebrating its 120th anniversary this year.



Milk calves hang out by the fence at Hildebrand Dairy Farm at 5210 W. Rucker Road. This farm raises its own cows and produces dairy products onsite. Tours can be arranged.



The Geary County Historical Society and Museums at 530 N. Adams St. is place to history buffs to learn more about Junction City's past and present. The museum system has historical sites all over town.