



## Touchdown

Co. A, 125th BSB scores again.

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Friday, October 26, 2007

Home of the Big Red One

## CFC continues

To date, the Fort Riley Combined Federal Campaign has collected \$17,948, or 9 percent of the \$200,000 goal. To donate, talk to your unit CFC representative.



Vol. 50, No. 43

## Post, Army news briefly

### Post leaders to sign Army Family Covenant

Leaders at Fort Riley will sign the Army Family Covenant at 2 p.m. Oct. 29 at Riley's Conference Center to mark the sweeping effort to sustain and improve the quality of life for Army Families.

"The strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families," said Secretary of the Army Pete Green.

The Army Family Covenant was unveiled Oct. 8 at the 2007 Association of the United States Army convention in Washington D.C., and Army installations around the country are signing the covenant to signify the commitment to Army Families.

Gen. Charles Campbell, commanding general of U.S. Army Forces Command, also will be at the covenant signing. Campbell is expected to visit Fort Riley for the day to receive an update on the transition team training mission and the building up of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

### GC address scheduled

Fort Riley Garrison Commander Col. Richard Piscal will address the civilian work force in two sessions at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Oct. 30 at Barlow Theater, Building 7866. Due to limited parking, carpools are encouraged. For more information, contact the Workforce Development Office at 239-2011.

### Recruiting meetings offered

The Special Forces Recruiting Team at Fort Riley will hold briefings every Tuesday at 10 a.m., noon and 5 p.m. in Building 211, Room 216 on Main Post. For more information, call 240-1838 or visit [www.bragg.army.mil/SORB](http://www.bragg.army.mil/SORB).

### Security course scheduled

The G2/DSEC will sponsor an S2 and Security Manager's Course from 10:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 6, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 7 and 8. The class will be held at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Building 319 and is for all S2 personnel and civilian security managers who are able to attend. Please register to ensure a slot for this training.

For more information, contact Peter Paras, DSEC, at [peter.paras@conus.army.mil](mailto:peter.paras@conus.army.mil) or 239-3607, or Harry Sturdivant, G2, at [harry.sturdivant@conus.army.mil](mailto:harry.sturdivant@conus.army.mil) or 239-6322.

### Stay 'In Step' with Fort Riley

See what's happening at Fort Riley. Tune in to Fort Riley cable channel 2 every day at 8 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. or watch "In Step with Fort Riley" at 5 a.m. every Saturday and at 11 a.m. most Saturdays on WIBW TV Channel 13.

This week's show will run on WIBW TV Oct. 27 and on the post's cable channel 2 Oct. 29 through Nov. 4.

# Fort Riley Post

## Rolling thunder



Soldiers in 3rd Platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, prepare to search detainees at the end of a live-fire exercise Oct. 15. *Post/Staatz*

### 'Thunderbolts' complete first multi-tank exercise

By Anna Staatz  
Staff writer

Oct. 15 was rainy, windy and cool, but the weather did little to stop the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment from pushing through Tank Table XII, the highest level tank gunnery exercise the unit can complete at Fort Riley.

"This is the most fun we get to have," said Maj. Mike James, the "Thunderbolt" battalion operations officer.

The live-fire exercise began several miles away from the Multi-Purpose Range Complex, with platoons out on patrol moving toward the range. Along the way, Soldiers encountered an improvised explosive device. A little farther along, they talked with a "local" who gave them enemy information, forcing them to set up a hasty attack.

The Soldiers then rolled onto the range in their M1A1 Abrams for their first multi-tank exercise. Platoons, which have four tanks each, rolled through both defensive and offensive maneuvers along the range, marked with the concussion of ammunition being fired — "rolling thunder."

"This is important for us because it takes all the individual tasks and requires them to use those tasks to act as a team," said Capt. Jeremy Wingrove, Company C commander.

The Soldiers had to evacuate a casualty injured during the mission. As they came to the end of the exercise, Soldiers

encountered several civilian locals they had to search and detain.

As the first squad rolled to the end of the mission, Wingrove said things went well overall, given the weather and the wrinkles of being the first group out on the range.

Second Lt. Henry Brewster, 3rd Platoon leader, said the exercise was challenging for his Soldiers.

"I hope through this they become familiarized and proficient in the operating platform," Brewster said.

During the weeks leading up to Tank Table XII, units in 2nd Bn., 70th Armor Regt., worked through a series of progressively more difficult training tables, culminating with individual crew qualifications for the four Soldiers in each tank. The Thunderbolts spent four days in the field qualifying Companies C and D on Tank Table XII.

The next step for unit-wide tank maneuver exercises would have to take place at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Capt. Jon Boyle, battalion S1, said an NTC rotation will expand on skills and assets used in Tank Table XII, incorporating infantry companies into missions similar to what units will carry out when they are deployed.

The Thunderbolts, part of 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, are expected to participate in a brigade-wide rotation to NTC in early 2008.



Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment fire a Paladin Oct. 17 during certification for fire support teams from 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment. *Post/Stroda*

### Fire support crews put to test

By Laura Stroda  
Staff writer

After about two months of training, dry fires, classroom scenarios and simulations, fire support teams from the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, had a chance Oct. 17 to put their skills to the test in a live-fire training exercise with Paladin crews from the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment.

The infantry Soldiers stood in the turrets of Bradleys and peered through

binoculars and laser range finders, watching as the Paladins' 155-millimeter rounds exploded behind a cluster of trees. Spc. James Woodside said he enjoyed getting out of the classroom and simulators and into the field.

"It's a lot easier in the field because you're physically looking at things and it's easier for your eye to adjust. In the simulator, it's always a little bit more difficult because it's a flat screen," said

See Fire support, Page 3



1st Bde/McCooy

### Welcome home

Family members welcome home the last of seven 1st Brigade security force companies to return from a yearlong deployment to Iraq Oct. 19. See page 4 for stories on the last two redeployment ceremonies.

## 1st Sust. Bde. takes charge in Iraq

By Pfc. Andrea Merritt  
1st Sust. Bde. PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — The 1st Sustainment Brigade officially took charge of support operations throughout Iraq in a transfer of authority ceremony Oct. 19 outside of the brigade's headquarters.

The 1st Sust. Bde. assumed command from the 15th Sustainment Brigade, which deployed to Camp Taji from Fort Hood, Texas, in August 2006.

While in theater, the 15th Sust. Bde. "Wagonmasters" supported 13 brigade combat teams, conducted more than 5,800 combat logistics patrols and drove over four million miles across an area the size of Kentucky. Now, it is the Fort Riley brigade's turn to make its mark.

The 1st Sust. Bde. has taken charge of eight battalions and commands more than 4,000 Soldiers who are spread throughout the greater Multi-National Division — Baghdad area.

They will perform personnel, human resources, financial management, force protection and other logistical operations while in Iraq.

"I know the 1st SB will continue to build on the 15th SB's past successes as well as create new ones," said Brig. Gen. Gregory Couch, commanding general of the 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

Before the 1st Sustainment Brigade arrived at Camp Taji, they kept in close contact with the 15th Sustainment Brigade through

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# 'Bushmasters' prowl Kamiliyah's streets

By Sgt. 1st Class Robert Timmons  
4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. PAO

BAGHDAD – The morning started like any summer day at a beach town in Southern California – warm and overcast. It wouldn't be until afternoon when the heat of the sun would scorch the clouds away.  
But there wasn't going to be any frolicking in the surf today. Instead, the Soldiers of Company B "Bushmasters," 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment would be patrolling the increasingly calm yet dangerous streets of this small neighborhood, called Kamiliyah, in a southern section of the Iraqi capital Oct. 11.

After an unexpected reprieve from a mission the previous night, the Bushmasters of 1st Platoon were ready and ventured out into the quiet town for a two-fold mission: check the town's water supply and check the industrial area for a reported weapons cache.

"We don't get blown up or shot at that much anymore," said Cpl. Jacob Price, an infantryman from Eureka, Calif. "The sheiks are starting to rein in their people."  
Even through the eerie calm, the Bushmasters will uncoil and show the people they are still there through various day and night patrols.

## Four corners and a dry hole

Staff Sgt. Adam Schumann, the 1st Squad leader from Minot, N.D., led the platoon straight out of the semi-comforts of Forward Operating Base Bushmaster down a road more than a half mile and then stopped and dismounted near a school.

As the day before, the children began to gather to get a glimpse of the heavily-armed Americans bottled up in heavy-armored vehicles.  
Schumann entered the school

to take a sample of the water in the area. Water samples were being taken at various points around the perimeter of town to judge the health of its water supply.

"The convoy stopped a few more times to take other samples and eventually tested in a residential area.

"Look for a house with running water," Schumann ordered through the radio as Price, Pfc. Scott Francis Scutari, a 31-year-old infantryman from Long Island, N.Y., and others began testing the locks on nearby courtyards for entry.

Politely the Soldiers wrapped on a front door and patiently waited until a mother and child opened the door.

"Salaam Alakum," Scutari said the Iraqi greeting with a smile to the mother and child, who returned the smile and quietly stepped aside as the Bushmasters stealthily searched the house.

"This one has running water," a Soldier called out somewhere in the house, and after doing a cursory check of the residence, the troops left as quickly as they arrived.

The next part of the mission would last a bit longer.

The sun had burned off the haze as 1st Platoon drove around mountains of scraps that in another time and place may have been considered abstract art. They parked and began searching for what intelligence said could be a sizeable cache of weapons. If it wasn't for dogs barking and new locks on the doors the place would seem deserted.

"We went looking for 30 to 300 107-mm rockets," Price said afterwards. "It's a little easier to find something like that – there are not a lot of places you can hide it."

Armed with bolt cutters, the troops began a methodical clearing of the industrial block. If there was no answer after a knock, the locks were cut and the troops entered.



4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div./Timmons  
Cpl. Jacob Price, an infantryman with 1st Platoon, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, peers out a window during clearing operations of the Kamiliyah industrial area in southern Baghdad as his platoon looks for a cache of rockets Oct. 11. The Eureka, Calif., native's unit is part of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., but is attached to 2nd Brigade, 2nd Inf. Div. during its current deployment.

Building after building the Bushmaster searched for the cache.

The troops kept searching even though most of the near-empty buildings didn't have the space to conceal a sizeable cache. They didn't find the cache, but they did find Iraqis working hard either packaging dates or powder coating hot water heaters.

"We have been here many times," Price said. "We come here from time to time, but we don't always find caches. We go places to show our presence and to let the locals know we are there."

Even though they have been to the complex many times, it doesn't make it any less stressful.  
"You are always apprehensive

until you finally go in the door," Price said.

With sweat dripping off their brows and temperatures creeping toward 100 degrees Fahrenheit, the platoon methodically neared the end of the mission. But, there was still one more shop to inspect.

When Schumann, Price and a few others stepped through the courtyard, they encountered fresh metallic scraps littering the courtyard and a grey-haired man and his family who smiled at the Americans and shook their hands with an excitement reminiscent of meeting long lost relatives.

The Soldiers gave a cursory look over the man's tin-cutting wares and left as quickly as they arrived.

## Ghosts in the darkness

Intelligence arrived that afternoon of a possible high-value target in the vicinity and the Bushmasters began planning a lightning strike to snatch him up.

In the early morning hours of Oct. 12, the platoon douped the Humvee lights and a squad led by Schumann entered the block on foot.

Like ghosts afraid of the light, the squad crept from shadow to shadow looking for the house intelligence pointed to: a two-story residence with a yellow gate and a courtyard.

Houselights up and down the block cast an eerie glow as the squad approached.

A few meters before the suspect house, the patrol walked past an empty vehicle on the right side of the road and met a heavy-set Iraqi leaning up against a wall taking in the night sky. Schumann immediately exchanged pleasantries with him and quickly enlisted his services.

"Do you know where this man lives?" the squad leader asked politely.

No, the man insisted.  
"What about this address?" Schumann said showing the man a map. With a slight hand gesture the man indicated it was the first home on the right. As part of the squad searched a house four doors up the road, Schumann and others quickly tested the gate to find it locked.

Three Soldiers scaled the gate and knocked on the door. A middle-aged man answered and quickly went outside to unlock the gate. Soldiers inspected his house and only found the man's identity paperwork. It was the wrong man.

Schumann talked with the man and with a smile and handshake the Soldiers left.

"We had vague intel," Price said later. "People may be upset at other people for what ever reason and reported them."

No matter if it was another dry hole or not, 1st Lt. Andrew Boland, a 24-year-old platoon leader from Washington, D.C., said it helped keep his troops sharp.

"It was good practice for the guys," he said. "You might scare some people in the house; it makes them mad, but they see you are going after bad guys."

With daylight still a few hours off, the Soldiers crawled into their bunk and slept until the smell of hot breakfast and would wake them up to prepare for their next mission.

Note: This is the second of a two-part series on life at Coalition Operating Base Bushmaster in Kamiliyah, Iraq. Part one ran in the Oct. 19 Post.

# 'Vanguards' applaud security volunteers

By Sgt. 1st Class Robert Timmons  
4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. PAO

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad battalion commander working directly with Iraqi security volunteers cited their efforts Oct. 19 as one of the major factors in the economic revival of Saydiyah, a southern neighborhood in the Iraqi capital.

Lt. Col. George Glaze, commander of the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, which is attached to the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division from Fort Riley, is responsible for the security of a large part of West Rasheed which includes Saydiyah and Radwinyah.

"When we put (the volunteers) in, there were six shops along the main commercial street. Within two days there were 24 shops, and two days later there were 54. It seemed that every two days the number of shops doubled," he said. "To me that is an indicator of security."

With the added security, the economy has improved, Glaze said.

"The economy began to immediately return once the ISVs were in sector," he said.

Currently there are more than 300 Iraqis in the volunteer force and more being hired everyday.

The volunteers are a cornerstone of coalition and Iraqi efforts to bring stability to Baghdad by empowering citizens to protect their neighborhoods and enabling security forces to concentrate on rebuilding the nation's infrastructure.

Glaze said he felt prejudices have caused some to resort to

violence out of fear. The only way to combat it was through communication, he added.

He cited a recent example of dialogue when he broke fast during Ramadan with local leaders and the ISV outside the recently re-opened Saydiyah Mosque. The Sunni mosque had been closed for eight months but "immediately opened," when the ISV was started in the town.

Glaze and Lt. Col. Jabar, the Iraqi Army commander in Saydiyah, recently sat down with members of the volunteer force, Iraqi security forces and Imams to talk about ways to move forward in the area.

Glaze said the level of violence since citizens began volunteering has dropped drastically in his area of operations.

"In Radwinyah as well as in Saydiyah it has gone down significantly. The numbers of murders, direct fires, and IEDs have reduced significantly. It went from everyday to every other day to once a week," he said.

He added he believes the current strategy of getting the volunteers and Iraqi security forces working together is the main reason for the revival of Saydiyah.

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# 1st Bde. IED gurus set up new lane

## Transition team members face new challenges leaving FOB

By Dena O'Dell  
Staff writer

As a Soldier deployed to Iraq for 13 months, Staff Sgt. Stephen Sims experienced first hand the effects an improvised explosive device can have.

"The first IED I got hit by, they set it off too soon," the sergeant said.

The IED didn't injure Sims or anyone else accompanying him that day, but other Soldiers have not been so lucky. IEDs are the No. 1 killer of U.S. Soldiers deployed to Iraq, Sims said.

That's why Sims and Sgt. 1st Class Lester Clason, both members of the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, have joined forces not only to educate Soldiers about IEDs, but also to give

them a visual of the devices up close and personal.

The two men were instrumental recently in setting up an IED lane near Camp Funston, which transition team Soldiers being trained by the brigade will have to travel when leaving Forward Operating Base Army Strong.

Those driving through the lane can expect to see 34 posters displaying information about IEDs and about 18 pictures of the devices. An IED is positioned along the route for Soldiers to find.

Because IEDs can be camouflaged in several ways and there are different types of IEDs, Sims said, it's important for Soldiers to know what to look for. The intent of the IED lane is to familiarize the Soldiers with certain charac-

teristics of the devices and enable them to identify them.

Sims is one of several instructors who teach a two-hour class about IEDs. Typical questions asked by Soldiers during the classroom presentation, he said, are what the device's range is and how far off the road IEDs are placed.

"Most IEDs are close to the road. If they are too far off from the road, the device will not do what (insurgents) intend it to do," he said. "First of all, we tell them straight up that they have to know their sector. If something changes in that sector, they have to know it. They have to be aware and keep watching."

"We preach to them that any time they have to stop, there is always a five and 25 – the first scan before you get out of your vehicle is five meters. Once you get out of your vehicle, you do a 25-meter walk around."

Sims said he hopes Soldiers will benefit from the IED lane and have a greater awareness about what to expect if they are deployed to a country like Iraq.

"It will help these guys because a lot of them don't know too much about IEDs," he said. "It will give them a better knowledge of IEDs to actually see them, instead of being in a classroom and seeing them on slides – actually seeing them in the environment."

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AT HOME AMERICA  
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PRAIRIE HAWK CYCLE & LEATHER,  
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# Iraqi emergency responders work together

By Pfc. April Campbell  
27th PAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — Iraqi security forces took another step toward self-sufficiency when several Iraqi security elements participated in a civil defense drill Oct. 20 in Yarmouk, an area in the Mansour District of western Baghdad.

Iraqi soldiers from the 2nd Battalion "Falcons", 5th Brigade, 6th Division as well as policemen from three Iraqi police stations and firefighters from the Yarmouk Fire Department planned and executed the drill. The different security elements reacted to two simulated vehicle-borne improvised explosive device explosions in a populated area.

The 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division (Task Force Patriot) along with a military transition team with the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, helped to coach the different elements.

"We proposed the idea several months ago," said Lt. Col. Michael Lawson, Task Force Patriot commander. "Then, the Iraqi Army took the lead in planning the drill along with the Iraqi police and the local fire department."

While coalition forces helped guide the Iraqi security forces, the Iraqis were in charge of planning and executing the drill.

"The drill enabled the Iraqis to develop an Iraqi solution to an Iraqi problem," Lawson said. "Reacting to VBIEDs is something that they will have to be able to do."

The exercise allowed the different response elements to understand each others' roles as well as how they, themselves, fit into the bigger picture.

"The most important gain happened in the area of coordination between all the (security forces)," said Iraqi Army Col. Ali Fadi, commander of the Falcon Battalion. "It is not just the work of (the Falcon Battalion). There is a much bigger force involved in controlling events other than just

the Iraqi Army."

Different sectors of the local police and fire departments will be interacting with the Iraqi Army to coordinate a response to such a terrorist attack, added Fadi.

Emergency response drills, such as this, also may help to increase the quality of life for the citizens of Baghdad. Enabling the different organizations to work together can help them develop a more systematic approach to their emergency planning.

"If (a terrorist attack) happens, (the citizens) can see that the fire department will come here and do this, the police will do this, and the Iraqi Army will be doing (its) part," said Capt. Gregory Wooton, the transition team executive officer and civil military officer adviser, 2nd Bn., 12th Inf. Regt. "They'll start seeing who's responsible for what."

Through this type of training effort, Wooton said, the Iraqi emergency response agencies can learn to coordinate with each other, and Iraqi citizens can gain confidence in the quality of their civil service agencies.



27th PAD/Campbell

While taking part in a civil defense drill, Yarmouk firefighters put out the last flames of a fire from a simulated vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in the Mansour District of western Baghdad Oct. 20.



15th Sust. Bde./Connor

First Sustainment Brigade Commander Col. Kevin O'Connell and Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Cardoza uncased the brigade's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony Oct. 19 at Camp Taji, Iraq.

## TOA continued from page 1

phone calls and video teleconferences so that their transition into command would be easier.

"Our transition has been flawless because of your support of us. Ever since we got our deployment orders ... it's just been first-class operations dealing with a first-class organization," said 1st Sust. Bde. Commander Col. Kevin O'Connell, of the 15th Sust. Bde. "To the Soldiers of the 1st Sust.

Bde., look back on the giants that have gone before us, stand on their shoulders, both from the 1st Infantry Division and the 15th Sust. Bde. They've set the foundation, now it's our turn to keep improving," O'Connell said.

"Look back at the motto of the 'Big Red One.' No mission to difficult. No sacrifice to great. Duty first and sustain to victory," O'Connell concluded.

## Retiree Appreciation Day held at Riley's

By Laura Stroda  
Staff writer

Military retirees lined up more than 50 deep to get flu shots and other immunizations Oct. 19 at Fort Riley's annual Retiree Appreciation Day.

The day-long event featured speakers, a health fair and vendors. But event coordinator Kathy Cunningham-Tucker said the free health services are the biggest draw for Retiree Appreciation Day.

"This is what gets them out," she said. Some of the services offered at the health care clinic included eye exams, foot screening and primary care.

This was the first Retiree Appreciation Day for Vietnam veteran retired Sgt. 1st Class Larry Combs. Visiting with veter-

ans of the Korean War and World War II was especially exciting for the Manhattan resident.

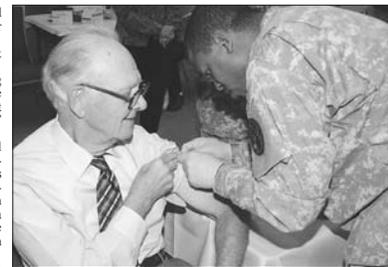
He said he'll definitely be back next year.

"It's great ... I enjoyed visiting with all my comrades ... to have an understanding of what our past history of the military was like," Combs said.

The event isn't just for local retirees and their Families, Cunningham-Tucker said. Fort Riley's Retiree Appreciation Day encompasses military veterans in Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. She said the majority of attendants come from within a 50-mile radius, though.

Yolande Adair, another Manhattan resident, isn't retired from the military, but her late husband Donald retired after more than 20

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Post/Stroda

Sp. John Miller gives retired Col. Verlyn Steinkruger, who worked at Fort Riley for 12 years, a flu shot during Fort Riley's Retiree Appreciation Day Oct. 19 at Riley's Conference Center.

## Fire support continued from page 1

Woodside, who is responsible for uploading target coordinates and information into a computer in the hull of the Bradley.

The fire support teams are responsible for identifying and locating targets, creating fire missions and then calling for rounds from the artillery unit. It's all done digitally, which makes things more secure and accurate, said Maj. Richard Hodgson, 4th Bn., 1st FA Regt., executive officer.

If the location of a target isn't exactly known, the fire support team will call for just one round from the artillery unit. The observers will then adjust the coordinates according to the round's impact.

Company A Fire Support Officer Capt. Joe Witmer described his Soldiers as the "eyes" of the exercise and the artillery guns as the "muscle." Witmer oversees the fire direction center — what he calls the "brains of the operation." As targets are identified and located, the information is fed to the fire direction center, which makes sure everything is "squared away" before sending the firing mission on to the artillery unit, he said.

"It's a pretty important job, a pretty tough job," Hodgson said.



Post/Stroda

Second Lt. Hugh Hayten (left) and Sgt. Joshua Flickema watch as rounds impact down range Oct. 17 during certification for fire support teams from 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment.

"These guys kind of have to know both ends of the spectrum — the artillery piece and the maneuver piece of it."

The exercise was designed to certify the fire support teams of the battalion — which is still in the early building and training stages as the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team builds up to be a combat-ready brigade.

"We're bringing the teams together to learn what they're supposed to be doing," Hodgson said.

"This unit's makeup is a little bit unusual. You have a lot of very junior-level Soldiers that are fairly fresh out of basic and (Advanced Individual Training)." (Spc. Daniel Gebhardt, an ammunition team chief with the 4th Bn., 1st FA Regt., said he had-

n't participated in a live-fire exercise since graduating from AIT and was "very excited" about the training opportunity, despite the physical demands of his job. He and Spc. Aaron Wood were busy resupplying a Paladin with ammunition — lugging 95-pound rounds from their vehicle to the gun. Gebhardt said Soldiers switch out during a resupply to avoid over-exerting themselves.

The Paladins are capable of holding 39 rounds and the resupply vehicle can hold 95. In a real-world situation, those rounds run out rather quickly, Hodgson said.

"You get tired pretty fast (resupplying the Paladin)," said Gebhardt.

Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Leighty said the ammunition resupply Soldiers are critical to a firing mission and also talked about the accuracy of the Paladins, which have a range of up to 30 kilometers. During the fire support team certification exercise, his platoon was firing rounds at targets 10 to 12 kilometers away.

"We can put steel on target. That's the kind of accuracy that these guns provide," he said.

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MILITARY COMMUNITY YOUTH MINIS  
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FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD-MANHATTA  
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# 'Devil' Brigade welcomes home last SECFOR companies

## 'Iron Ranger' Soldiers return Oct. 17

By Dena O'Dell  
Staff writer

As tears streamed down Averee Thomas' face, the little girl could hardly speak. She clung to her father, Staff Sgt. Dennis Thomas, whom she hadn't seen in 13 months. Averee's mother, Amanda, also wept. The family said they didn't know what their plans would be now that Dennis was home, they just knew that they were glad he was home.

The same sentiment could be felt throughout Long Gym Oct. 17, when the Families of 150 Soldiers with Company C, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, gathered to welcome their loved ones home after more than a year in Iraq.

During their deployment, the company provided security for convoys and conducted combat patrols. All Soldiers deployed with the company came home safely.

Brig. Gen. Keith Walker, 1st Inf. Div. assistant division commander of operations, welcomed the Soldiers home telling them that because of their service, Americans can enjoy the freedoms they hold dear.

"Because of your service, we can speak with our minds, write with our hearts and read, watch and listen to more than any other country in the world," Walker said.

The general told the Soldiers their sacrifice allows Americans to protest, vote and enjoy count-



Post/O'Dell

**Spc. Zachary Phillips, Company C, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, is welcomed home by his sister Madison, 8, and his wife Sabrina during a redeployment ceremony Oct. 17.**

less other freedoms. Walker then released the Soldiers to their families.

Many of the Soldiers returning with the unit had young children waiting. Brandy Carr, wife of 1st Lt. Joseph Carr, said their daughter, Bert, was just 17 days old when her father deployed. When the lieutenant was reunited with his daughter, he couldn't get over how big she had gotten, Brandy said.

Fighting back tears, Nashawn Ramos, wife of Spc. Max Ramos, said it has been one of the hardest 13 months of her life. Now that her husband is home, Nashawn said the family, which also includes the couple's son, Bryan

Edmonds, plans to make up for lost time.

Sgt. Steven Mock celebrated his return from Iraq with his wife Janelle and daughter Ellie, 2.

"It's funny because you spend all this time traveling and you're gone for so long. And then all of the sudden, in an instant, you're back with your family," he said. "It's almost shocking to your system, but I'm really excited."

With bright eyes and a wide grin, it was difficult for Janelle to contain her excitement about her husband's return.

"It's a great feeling, it's a wonderful day and even though it's so gloomy outside today, it couldn't be brighter in here," Janelle said.

## Last companies return to post Oct. 19

By Sgt. 1st Class Ken  
McCooy

1st Bde. PAO

Approximately 180 Soldiers returned to Fort Riley Oct. 19 after spending a year in Iraq providing security for convoys, conducting combat patrols and training Iraqi security forces.

The Soldiers, assigned to Troop D, 4th Cavalry Regiment and Company C, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, were welcomed home at Fort Riley's Long Gym. Family members and fellow Soldiers packed the bleachers, leaving the event in a standing-room-only capacity to welcome home the last of 1st Brigade's security force companies to return home.

The Soldiers, who had been deployed since Oct. 2006, conducted patrols and convoy escorts over more than 400,000 miles to deter aggression, demonstrate regional stability and provide reassurance to the citizens of Iraq.

Brig. Gen. Keith Walker, 1st Infantry Division assistant division commander of operations, had three brief messages for the Soldiers standing in formation on the gym floor that day; thank you, well done, and welcome home.

"I have three messages for you and I will be brief," Walker said. "The first is to say thank you. Because of you, we can write what is on our minds, we can say what is in our hearts, we can watch whatever TV we want to watch, listen to whatever music we want to hear, we can vote whoever we want to vote for and we can worship God however we see fit."

After commenting on the job well done by the Delta Troop and Charlie Company Soldiers, Walker summed up what many of the Soldiers in the formation had been waiting for ... to be reunited with their families.

"My last message is welcome home, and your loved ones can do that far more eloquently than me," he said. "As family members and friends rushed the floor, many Soldiers got to realize a dream that had been a year in the making. One Soldier commented how it was sometimes 'too good to be true.'"

"You walk in and hear the cheering and the music and everything, you know it's done, it's completed and everybody is



Post/McCooy

**Denise Wright holds a sign and her daughter Emma as she awaits the return of her husband, Wright and other family members were at Fort Riley's Long Gym Oct. 19 to welcome approximately 180 Soldiers assigned to Troop D, 4th Cavalry Regiment and Company C, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment.**

going to be reunited with their families," said Staff Sgt. Brandon Olson. "It's a great feeling."

While Olson may have missed his family more than anything, he said there were a lot of other things he missed as well. Regardless, he is just happy to finally be back home.

"It's great to get back and see family, and get everybody reunited," he said. "I missed a lot of things, (it's great) being able to relax and hang out and not have to worry, and not have people trying to kill you."

# Cavalry sergeant sets himself apart at BNCOC

By Sgt. Brian Tierce  
3rd HBCT PAO

The creed of the noncommissioned officer states that NCO's strive to remain tactically and technically proficient. But how does one really know that they are maintaining this level of excellence?

Staff Sgt. Derek Lucero of 1st Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment used a recent assignment to the Basic NCO course at Fort Knox, Ky., to prove his tactical and technical proficiency.

"I went down there expecting for it to be challenging," Lucero said. "It was fairly challenging. They were teaching tactics that were relevant to operations that are going on today both in Iraq and also tactics that are tailored to a high intensity conflict."

The message being taught clicked with Lucero. He finished the course not only winning the Honor Graduate Award but also earning the Distinguished Leadership Award for the course.

Being the best took learning from the best, Lucero said.

"I'd have to give credit to all the leaders that I had prior to me

going to BNCOC. All the way from when I was a private until I was a staff sergeant in this unit," he said.

The accent to the top of the class was not an easy road for Lucero. At the start of the course there were 64 Soldiers in the running for honor graduate. After the first written examination, more than 30 Soldiers were eliminated.

Throughout the course, Soldiers were eliminated from contention for honor grad and in the end it was between Lucero and one other Soldier. Lucero, by a margin of less than 1 percent, received the honor and with an impressive showing at the Leadership Board was also named the distinguished leader for the course.

"The reason I was so successful at BNCOC was because I went down there with the sole intent of learning and going to school and passing the course," Lucero said.

Lucero's success didn't go unnoticed by his unit's leaders. Lt. Col. John Richardson, commander, 1st Sqdn, 13th Cav. Regt., described the value of having such great NCOs in the squadrons.

"To have someone out there

like Staff Sgt. Lucero - where the rubber meets the road with the Soldiers - that is the force multiplier. The squadron is extremely proud of him. But, more important than that, Staff Sgt. Lucero is an invaluable asset to the U.S. Army because of the people he touches."

Squadron Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Battle also spoke of the importance of having such skilled leaders.

"One good thing is, Staff Sgt. Lucero set the bar high," Battle said. "And by him setting the bar high, we recently had two Soldiers out of that same troop graduate on the commandants list form the Warrior Leaders Course."

NCOs are considered by many to be the backbone of the Army, and for Lucero leading from the front is a trait he said he learned as a young Soldier and will continue to impress upon his own young Soldiers.

"Every experience young Soldiers have in the Army, whether it's a formal class or just a block of instruction, they should always try to remember what they are being taught and keep it in their mind because they never know when you're going to use something."

# Retirees continued from page 2

years as an Army aviator. The couple settled in the area and he died of Lou Gehrig's Disease in 2004.

Even though her husband is gone, Adair said she still feels like a part of the military retiree community. She volunteers on post and attends many Fort Riley functions. She's president of the Random Woods Homeowner's Association - an 82-home development that includes retirees and active duty Soldiers.

"A lot of the husbands who deploy to Iraq will ask me to help look out for their families and take care of them while they're gone," she said.

Retirees at the conference heard from several post officials about construction, health care and the transition team mission. The keynote speaker was Brig. Gen. Keith Walker, 1st Infantry Division assistant division commander of operations, who spoke

about today's Army versus the "legacy Soldiers" of the past.

"I liked what the general had to say about the young people. I believe that ... I should put my arms around them and make them feel like we do care," Combs said.

Presenters at the vendor fair ranged from the Association of the U.S. Army and Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and the newly-opened Manhattan Vet Center. Sherwin Stielow, a retired Soldier and membership chairman for SMART (Special Military Active-Retired Travel Club), said he not only was there to recruit members, but spread the word about forming a local chapter of the club. He said SMART is having an organizational meeting from noon to 2 p.m. Nov. 3 at the Main Post dining facility.

"SMART supports Family camps, and Fort Riley does not

have one, and I've been working for a lot of years trying to get one here," he said. "It'd really be nice for retirees and also for military Families visiting the Soldiers here on the base."

One advantage of the vendor tables is providing an opportunity for veterans to learn about services they're eligible for. Ellaria Thores, legal assistant at the Fort Riley Legal Assistance Office, was at the conference helping retirees fill out power of attorney forms. She said the No. 1 question her office gets is "How much does it cost?"

"As long as they have a valid military ID, they are authorized to use our services free of charge," she said.

Cunningham-Tucker said organizers try each year to improve Retiree Appreciation Day.

"We try to keep bringing in new speakers every year and have a variety of topics," she said.

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# Commentary

## Riley Roundtable

### This week's question:

What was your favorite Halloween costume as a kid and why?



"Superman because he was my favorite superhero."

**Spc. Randall Hall**  
Gunner  
Co. C, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Regt.  
Home: Jacksonville, Fla.



"Wonder Woman because she's my hero."

**Air Force Lt. Col. Zola Ferguson**  
Physician assistant  
Transition Team Class 34  
Home: Reno, Nevada



"A Ninja Turtle because they were so cool."

**Spc. Charles Johnston**  
Co. D, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor Regt.



"A ballerina because I really like to dance."

**Simone Kavanagh**  
Military Spouse  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



"A Soldier because I was a really big G.I. Joe fan."

**Maj. Jack Keen**  
Engineer  
Transition Team Class 34  
Benton, Ark.

### Letters to the editor:

The Post welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not contain any libelous statements or personal accusations. Letters accepted for publication must include the writer's full name and a phone number where he or she can be reached. Letters may be edited to fit space but never edited to change the writer's viewpoint. Send letters to [anna.morelock@onus.army.mil](mailto:anna.morelock@onus.army.mil) or fax them to 239-2592.

### Commander's Corner

## HSO helps renters read between lines

By Col. Richard Piscal  
Garrison commander



Col. Richard Piscal

Before you dive right in and sign that lease for your new rental home or apartment, answer this important question: Have you brought the paperwork to the Housing Services Office for review?

If not, maybe you should put the cap back on that pen, and pay them a visit. A lease is a lawful, binding contract, and the housing office will read the fine print for you.

Sure, the lease looks good to the untrained eye, and the monthly rent payment is reasonable. It also might contain a "military clause," which releases Soldiers who unexpectedly need to get out of their leases due to a military obligation.

But how much notice must you give the landlord before you move out? What's the deadline for the landlord to return some or all of your security deposit, along with an itemized list of assessed

damages? When moving day arrives and you're presented with that damage list - are the prices fair, or are they inflated? How will you know?

Fort Riley's Housing Services Office can answer those questions and more. Use their services. Why do you think your PCS orders direct you to report to housing upon arrival?

Each year, the friendly housing office counselors help hundreds of Soldiers and Department of Defense civilians find off-post housing that's clean, comfortable and affordable. They'll educate you on the local renting climate, and advise you on average prices and dwelling sizes.

Housing office representatives even will consult with the Office

of the Staff Judge Advocate to help decipher any legalese contained in the lease.

If there's a dispute between you and your landlord, housing office personnel will mediate and work for an amicable solution. They're always on the lookout for predatory or otherwise shady business practices.

Another tool to use when renting on the economy is the Army Housing Referral Network, which can be found online at [www.ahrn.com](http://www.ahrn.com). It's an Army-wide database that provides local listings of rentals and homes for sale, all locally approved by qualified housing representatives. AHRN works as a filter to weed out potentially problematic dwellings. For the 200 or so Fort Riley area listings, each house or apartment has been inspected by a trained inspector within a year. If it's on AHRN, chances are it's okay. But, a visit to the housing office will confirm it for you. They'll even accompany you and the landlord on the initial damage and inventory

inspection, and will file a copy of the resulting report to protect you from unwarranted damage claims when it's time to move.

Are you tired of renting, and ready to buy a home? No problem. The housing office can help you with that very complicated process as well. They'll explain financing options, tell you how to shop for a mortgage and even explain the difference between a general warranty deed and a quick claim deed.

They have an actual Realtor on hand, who can offer generic information about local real estate practices.

As Soldiers, we know you should never go into battle untrained. Well, in the housing business, it's the same way. Whether you're renting or buying, the housing office will arm you with facts. Questions? Give them a call at 239-3525, or stop by the Housing Services Office in Carr Hall, 45 Barry Ave. on Main Post.

### Letter to the Editor

## Kind act salvages family's weekend

I have an amazing story to tell you about a Soldier (Pvt. John McConnell, STB, 3rd HBCT) based at Fort Riley. My family stayed at Junction City recently in order to attend a K-State game Saturday night. Saturday evening we got in our car to head to the game and it would not start. My kids were very disappointed. We were telling the desk attendant at Candlewood Suites our situation

and asking if he knew of any mechanics that would work on it or if we could get a cab. About that time a fellow walked up to me and said "there is no reason to get a cab, use my car," and handed me the keys. Mind you at this time this guy doesn't even know my name or me. I resisted at first, but he insisted and we took his car (a pretty new Mazda RX8) to the game. You

know the game was great, but what really stuck with me was the impression this kind gesture had on my kids. On the way home Sunday they were calling their friends to tell them about their new friend John and his deed. The smiles John returned to my family's faces this weekend were priceless. It would have been a rough weekend had it not been for him. John was apparent-

ly at the motel because he had family visiting. I don't know if you can do anything for John McConnell, but I at least wanted you to know we think he is a great person! I intend to try and get his picture on CNN's salute the troops.

Chris, Roxie, Erin and Austin  
Holeman  
Coffeyville, Kansas

### Letter to the Editor

## Soldiers, especially, should honor flag

My son's Cub Scout pack conducted honors to the flag at Building 500 last year. During that time, the kids learned how to render honors to the flag and how to properly show patriotism. Being on a military installation and being in the Army, we pay tribute to the greatest piece of symbolism I believe this country has. It stands for everything we believe in and for all those who have given their lives to defend it. I still get a chill down my spine when I see it waving overhead.

Many homes and buildings on the installation fly a flag to show their pride.

It is important to know there are specific rules that govern flying a flag. First, a flag should be flown from sunrise to sunset and then taken down. If a patriotic effect is desired the flag can be flown 24 hours a day as long as it is illuminated. This means that porch lights should be left on so it can be properly seen.

Even though we know how to conduct reveille and retreat, we do take our flag for granted. When conducting morning physical training and running through

### Learn more

See page 18 for more information on the U.S. Flag Code, the history and traditions behind the nation's symbol.

the housing areas you can clearly see how many homes do not illuminate their flags.

The flag has its own set of regulations that not many people know about and they should be recognized to show the proper respect it deserves. It was actually a Cub Scout who pointed this out. Of anyone in society, we in the military must set the example by continuing to fly our colors high; especially during a time of war. Everyone should see them day or night and know that a true American resides there and supports their nation. For if we don't follow our flag's rules, what is to say anyone else should?

1st Sgt. Mark Dombrowski  
300th MP Co.

### Need to call for help?

Fort Riley domestic violence and sexual assault response line (24 hours) - (785) 307-1373  
Fort Riley Victim Advocate Program - (785) 239-9435  
Chaplains - (785) 239-4357  
Irwin Army Community Hospital emergency room - (785) 239-7777  
Military Police (785) 239-MPMP (6767)

### Grunt



### FORT RILEY POST

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Post Staff

### Change of command

Col. Jeffrey Ingram, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division commander hands the 541st Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade colors to incoming commander Lt. Col. J.P. Silverstein during a ceremony Oct. 17 at King Field House. Lt. Col. Lee Merritt, outgoing commander will go on to division staff. Silverstein is the incoming commander coming from Fort Leavenworth.

## Fort Riley shuttle route

Shuttle service at Fort Riley is available to Soldiers, Family members and civilians. For more information, call 239-6486 or 239-3672. Three shuttles run at 20-minute intervals from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. along the following route:

Building	Location
600	Irwin Army Community Hospital
671	Warrior Transition Unit
541	Guest housing/NCO, officer barracks
500	Building 500
101	1st Division Road
580	1st Infantry Division headquarters
4010	Dental Clinic #4
-	Intersection of 1st Division Road and Roosevelt
5309	Will Hall
5302-5303	Bank/Post Office
6422	Cable company
6914	Post Exchange
7264	Soldier and Family Support Center
7665	Caldwell Clinic
7866	Barlow Theater
8069	Long Fitness Center
8050	Barracks
7920	Intersection of Appenines and Brown
7781	Intersection of Appenines and Graves
7760	Intersection of Appenines and Shanks
7739	Marksmanship simulator
7305	Troop schools
7024	Craig Gym
6914	Post Exchange
6916	CLVI/MCS
-	Intersection of Meade and Jackson
2460	Piceme Military Housing
2310	Commissary
2999A	Colyer Manor West
2999B	Colyer Manor East
229	Polk Hall
210	In and out processing
202	King Field House
407	Sheridan Hall
446	Riley's Conference Center

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# General presents Purple Heart

By Spc. Dustin Roberts  
1st Inf. Div. PAO

A "Big Red One" Soldier received his Purple Heart Oct. 7 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center from Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin, Fort Riley and 1st Infantry Division commanding general.

Pfc. Abelino Gomez, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, suffered abdominal wounds from enemy mortar fire Aug. 11 in Iraq.

"I didn't think I was going to make it," Gomez said. "When the mortar hit, everything went black."

He was awake and walking around when he was injured, Gomez said, and remembers being put on a stretcher.

"I was put in a bed, and I started kicking and screaming because by then it was hurting bad," Gomez said. "Honestly, I couldn't really tell how bad my stomach was. The only thing I saw was a piece of shrap metal sticking out." Gomez said he leaked a lot

from his combat experience.

"Pay attention to your leaders because they actually know what they are talking about," Gomez said. "If I would have listened to my leaders, I would probably not be here."

He added that he missed his 4th IBCT comrades and would rather be back in Iraq with them.

"You grow a special bond with them," Gomez said. "Being here is me being frustrated for not helping them over there."

Durbin awarded the Purple Heart to Gomez in his hospital room, in the presence of Gomez's mother and sister.

"It's my honor to give him this award today," Durbin said. "I just want to thank him for his sacrifice to our great nation."

Durbin and 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley Command Sgt. Maj. John Fourhman also visited other Big Red One wounded warriors located at Walter Reed.

"All of these Soldiers here are great Soldiers," Durbin said. "Their contributions to our Army are very important and I will never forget that."



Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin, commanding general, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, presents Pfc. Abelino Gomez, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, the Purple Heart in his hospital room at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

# October retirees to be honored

The following Soldiers and civilians will be honored for their services during a retirement ceremony at 10 a.m. Oct. 31 at Ware Parade Field:

Col. Jay D. Wells, U.S. Army Garrison  
**Chief Warrant Officer Randy A. Harris**, 1st Maintenance Company  
**Sgt. Maj. Henry M. Narducci Jr.**, U.S. Army Garrison  
**1st Sgt. Christopher L. Cooke**, Headquarters Company, 1st Infantry Division  
**1st Sgt. Philip E. Melton**, 3rd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment  
**1st Sgt. Charlotte R. Martinez**, Dental Command  
**1st Sgt. Allen L. Freeman**, 1st Inf. Div. Band  
**Master Sgt. David M. Burke**, 101st Forward Support Battalion

**Sgt. 1st Class Russell L. Canter**, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment  
**Sgt. 1st Class Doris C. Wilson**, Headquarters Company, 1st Inf. Div.  
**Sgt. 1st Class Damon W. Darroch**, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment  
**Sgt. 1st Class Enrique Rivera-Vazquez**, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade  
**Sgt. 1st Class Dale L. Marks**, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment  
**Sgt. 1st Class David E. Mason**, 1st Maint. Co.  
**Sgt. 1st Class Patrick J. Zastrof**, 70th Engineer Battalion  
**Staff Sgt. Cleo P. Lee**, 774th Ordnance Company  
**Barbara L. Weeks**, Medical Activity

# Faulenberg returned to German authorities

By Roger Teel  
Army News Service

WUERZBURG, Germany — Wuerzburg's Faulenberg Kaserne, a military installation since 1877 and home to U.S. Soldiers since 1947, has been returned to the German government.

In its early days, the kaserne was a German army headquarters and stable. When the Americans moved in after World War II, Faulenberg Kaserne became home to U.S. Army, Europe's quartermaster laundry service and to a number of regional command headquarters, including the 98th Area Support Group, the Army's Regional Contracting Office, the Army's Criminal Intelligence Command, and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

Returning the kaserne to German authorities was bittersweet for many of the Army agents responsible for doing so.

Maria Assaad worked on Faulenberg for 31 years. Now, as chief of real estate operations with U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt's Directorate of Public Works, she was responsible for all facets of the closure — and delivered the kaserne's keys to its new German owners Sept. 27.

She will oversee the return of all other area installations, including the Wuerzburg Army hospital later this year and Leighton Barracks next year.

"It's stressful," Assaad said,

summarizing efforts to close and return the installation. "It's like stepping into another life. We have a saying in German that when something falls, it's a chance to make a new beginning. That's what's happening here."

Assaad assisted Johann Neumann from the German Bundesanstalt für Immobilienaufgaben, the German official estate property office, as he chaired the front gate. Two DPW trucks and a forklift were the last Army vehicles to exit the kaserne.

"Wuerzburg has always been a friendly host town, a very friendly city," said Fred Rashnavadi, master planner for USAG Schweinfurt DPW, echoing sentiments expressed by many Americans during recent installation closures.

Rashnavadi, from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., has lived in the Wuerzburg area since 1994. A former Army aviator, he was stationed at nearby Giebelstadt Airfield before retiring from active duty and taking on his new role.

Rashnavadi is responsible for planning and coordinating details for all installation closures, including those at Kitzingen's Harvey and Larson Barracks, and Giebelstadt Airfield in the past year.

"The whole place has to be empty. We had to find remaining tenants new homes, then all the furniture and property book items are turned in after being cross-levied with other installations that



Maria Assaad, chief of real estate for Schweinfurt's Directorate of Public Works, and Johann Neumann from the German Bundesanstalt für Immobilienaufgaben, Germany's official estate property office, chain the front gate after the installation was cleared Sept. 27.

was keen to point out many innovations and maintenance projects that had taken place on the kaserne.

"When I started in 1973, we had 150 boiler firemen who shoveled coal into furnaces on Hindenberg Kaserne and Emory and Leighton Barracks. Faulenberg used heating oil, except for Building 220," he said.

"We did a sewer study a number of years ago and found there are seven inlets to the city's sewer system. Most of the sewers are like those you'd find in London," he added.

He recalled the construction on installation's transformer stations 29 years ago in order to accommodate American 110-volt requirements.

Bonnet was most proud of the high-pressure steam plant near the kaserne's main entrance, saying the plant can produce 15 tons of steam per hour to warm the installation and also power the quartermaster laundry facility. He noted the soft-water production element, vital to the laundry service, was built the same time as the steam plant.

"Americans have always been fair employers; it was nice working here," Bonnet said. "And there's still much to do."

Rashnavadi recalled directing a project to refit all the plumbing in

the laundry facility.

"The plumbing was pre-World War II, made of lead, and leaking everywhere. The project called for putting in all new steam lines, at a cost of \$130,000. When it was finished, the project cut the installation's energy bill by more than half. The project paid for itself in three months," Rashnavadi said.

Representing American interests at the facility turnover were mostly German employees working for the U.S. Army. They passed the keys to a group of local BIMA officials, including: Hans Trantitz, chief of Wuerzburg's BIMA office; Soren Wolk and Roland Albert, facility managers; Petra Bauer, property sales; and Gregor Neeb, real estate inspector. Neeb once worked as a steam filter at Faulenberg before taking a position with the German government.

Norbert Gallena, representing the Wuerzburg Staatliches Bauamt, fielded two teams of five specialized inspectors who examined not only the heat, water, and electric utilities, but also the streets, water drainage and landscape. His office cleared the installation for return to the Germans.

Roger Teel serves with USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs

**What's happening in your unit?**  
 The Post wants to publicize interesting and informative articles about all organizations stationed at Fort Riley.  
 Call the editor at 239-8854. Let's talk.

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# Servicemembers, DoD civilians eligible for full replacement value

## Fort Riley Claims Office

Effective in fall 2007, Department of Defense servicemembers and civilians will be eligible for full replacement value protection on most DoD-funded personal property shipments.

FRV coverage applies to personal property shipments with a pickup date on or after: Oct. 1 for international shipments to or from outside the continental U.S.; Nov. 1 for domestic shipments within the continental U.S.; March 1, 2008, for non-temporary storage (NTS) shipments and local move/direct procurement method (DPM) shipments.

### Filing your claim with the carrier

Under the FRV program, if you file your claim directly with the carrier within nine months of delivery, the carrier will settle the claim by repairing or paying to repair damaged items. For items that are lost or destroyed, the carrier will either replace the item with a new item or pay the full, undepreciated replacement cost.

A few large items, such as pianos, organs, ATVs, personal watercraft, vehicles and motorcycles, as well as firearms and objects of art are not covered by FRV. Likewise, the carrier cannot replace some missing items with new ones. These are items that have value because of their age, such as collectible figurines, antiques, collectible plates, baseball cards, comic books, and coin and stamp collections.

On full replacement value claims, the carrier is liable for the greater of \$5,000 per shipment or \$4 times the net weight of the shipment in pounds, up to a maximum limit of \$50,000. If you believe the full replacement value of your property is more than \$50,000, you may be able to obtain additional FRV coverage at your own expense from a private insurance company or from the carrier, if the carrier offers additional coverage.

In addition, if you file your claim directly with the carrier within nine months of delivery, the carrier will be responsible for obtaining all repair and replacement costs.

If you file your claim directly with the carrier more than nine months after delivery, the carrier only will pay the depreciated replacement cost or repair cost, whichever is less. Also, the carrier will not be responsible for obtaining repair or replacement estimates and the carrier will not pay more than \$1.25 times the weight of the shipment. For example, if you filed a claim on a 10,000 pound shipment 10 months after delivery, the carrier would not be required to pay more than \$12,500.

Finally, if you file your claim directly with the carrier, you will have to file your claim by mail. You should send claims to the carrier by certified mail so you have a record of the date you submitted the claim. Once the carrier receives your claim, it will have up to 60 days to pay, deny or make a final written offer. Once you have settled the claim, the carrier will have 30 days to make the payment.

### Filing your claim with the military claims office

You may still file your claims directly with the Fort Riley claims office. However, if you do, you will give up your right to have the carrier settle your claim on the basis of full replacement value. The Fort Riley claims office will settle your claim by paying the depreciated replacement or repair cost, whichever is less.

However, in most cases you will be able to obtain more money for less work if you file directly with the carrier within nine months of delivery. The

Fort Riley office is available to assist you in filing your claim and DD Form 1840R with the carrier, and can advise you on whether an offer from the carrier is a fair offer.

If you file your claim directly with the carrier within nine months of delivery and you are dissatisfied with the carrier's final offer, or if you do not receive a final offer within 30 days, you may transfer your claim to the Fort Riley claims office. However, the Army cannot pay you the full replacement value immediately. On transferred FRV claims, the Army will pay you the depreciated replacement cost or repair cost, and then try to recover the full replacement value from the carrier. Once the Army has recovered the full replacement value from the carrier, the Army then will pay you the difference between what it recovered from the carrier and the amount it has already paid you.

### Notice of loss of damage must be provided first

Providing prompt notice of loss and damage will still be an essential part of the new claims process, whether you file your claim directly with the carrier within nine months to get FRV or file it with the military claims office.

You must ensure the carrier's delivery agent lists all loss and damage discovered at delivery on DD Form 1840. Any loss or damage discovered after delivery must be listed on DD Form 1840R and either mailed directly to the carrier within 75 days of delivery (preferably by certified mail) or submitted to the Fort Riley claims office within 70 days of delivery so the claims office can dispatch it to the carrier for you within the 75 day limit.

It is highly recommended that you bring your DD Form 1840R to the Fort Riley Office of the Staff Judge Advocate Claims Division to ensure the notice to the proper carrier is given. Remember - submitting the DD Form 1840R merely gives the carrier notice that you may submit a claim, it is not the same as filing a claim.

The carrier has the right to inspect the damaged items once it receives the notice forms. Normally the carrier will arrange to inspect your goods within 45 days of receipt of the DD Form 1840R, but it has the right to inspect damaged items up until the claim is finally settled. Please cooperate with the carrier in arranging a time for such inspections.

Remember, although there is no additional cost to the customer for FRV coverage under the new program, you must file your claim directly with the carrier within nine months of delivery to receive FRV. This is in addition to filing the DD Form 1840R within 75 days of delivery.

Finally, regardless of whether you file directly with the carrier or with a military claims office, you must file your claim within two years of delivery. Although there are some very limited exceptions to this requirement, they are rarely approved. When your goods are delivered, the carrier will give you instruction on where to mail your claim if you want to file it directly with the carrier. The carrier also will tell you what information you must submit with your claim. The carriers also will use the DD Form 1844 to list each item that was lost or damaged. You may mail or take your claim to the Fort Riley claims office if you want to file directly with the military or if you need assistance in filing with the carrier.

The Fort Riley OSJA Claims Division is located in Building 200, Room 107 and accepts walk-ins from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to noon on Fridays. You also can call the Claims Division at (785) 239-3830.



# Visiting the Lion's Den

The top noncommissioned officer of Multi-National Division - Baghdad and the 1st Cavalry Division from Townsend, Mont., Command Sgt. Maj. Philip Johndrow, pins an award for valor on an Iraqi soldier with 3rd Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division Oct. 11 during a visit to Joint Security Station Black Lion in West Rashid, a southern district in Baghdad. Soldiers with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division had the awards created to enable them to recognize their brothers in arms.

1st Cav. Div./Kojein

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## Army evaluates AMAP progress

By Elizabeth M. Lorge  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army is on phase four of the Army Medical Action Plan and has staffed 65 percent of Warrior Transition Units across the globe to improve care for wounded Soldiers, Brig. Gen. Mike Tucker, the plan's director, told reporters at the Pentagon Oct. 19.

He added that the AMAP answers findings from both the Department of Defense's independent review group and the Dole-Shalala Commission, and regularly inspects each WTU to ensure they have the right number of cadre and skill sets to help Soldiers heal and either return to duty or transition to civilian life.

The Army is building 35 WTUs with 58 companies, each holding around 200 Soldiers. Each WTU has a squad leader for every 12 Soldiers and a platoon leader for every 36. Nurse case managers handle 18 patients, and primary care managers, who are doctors, coordinate specialists and medications for about 200 patients each, better than the industry standard of 1,200-2,000 patients.

Tucker said Soldiers volunteer to become WTU cadre all the time. He said it is a special calling and the cadre, who are being considered for special promotion consideration and special-duty pay, are carefully screened to ensure they have the necessary skills and compassion to help wounded Soldiers and interact with worried Families who may not understand or follow military protocol. Combat experience helps, he said, but these Soldiers really need a parent figure who understands that if they're late for formation, they can't do 50 push-ups.

"The Soldier's job is to heal," Tucker said. "That means they're going to their appointments, taking their therapies, doing their treatments as prescribed, taking their medications as prescribed. It's their job. The cadre's job is to ensure they set the conditions for the Soldier to do their job and we hold them accountable."

We want to "allow these Soldiers to be everything they want

to be in life and not just focus on the bad leg, so to speak. We've got to keep their sights up, keep their aspirations high. One thing we want to prevent is a generation of terrific war veterans in wheelchairs on street corners somewhere in America," he said.

Tucker and his chief of staff, Col. Jimmie Keenan, said they fully support the Dole-Shalala Commission's findings and ability to reduce bureaucracy and increase cooperation with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Keenan pointed out that Soldiers only will need one physical rating now, and Tucker said Soldiers will be able to remain on active duty for up to 90 days while their paperwork is processed by the VA. They won't get lost in the shuffle or wait months for benefits and disability checks.

In fact, the VA plans to place benefit counselors in the largest Soldier Family Assistance Centers, which are sized in conjunction with WTUs, according to Bianca Warner, human resources director at the Installation Management Command.

Another important aspect of the AMAP, SFACs are designed to provide all the social services Family members and Soldiers might need, she said. Spouses and parents may drop everything to be with their Soldier and need financial and child care assistance, or help caring for their wounded warrior. SFACs even can help a Soldier's fiancée or best friend find a place to stay and get on post.

According to Keenan, the Army plans to spend \$238 million renovating and building billeting and Family quarters for the unprecedented numbers of wounded warriors returning from war.

She said there are more than 70 amputees serving on active duty, nine of them in Iraq, and Tucker said that since World War II, the battlefield survival rate has increased by more than 70 percent.

According to Tucker, 40 to 50 agencies will come together next week in Landsdowne, Va., to evaluate AMAP's progress and next steps. He said the AMAP should be in phase five by January.

## First responders test readiness during post disaster exercise

By Dena O'Dell  
Staff writer

After the smoke cleared, the signs of chaos were apparent. Bodies lie on the ground and lives hung in the balance after a plane crashed into the rail yard at Camp Funston.

In this case it wasn't a real-life situation, but a planned exercise Oct. 18 to test the capabilities of Fort Riley's emergency responders.

Emergency medical technicians, along with firefighters from the Fort Riley Fire Department, rushed to the scene of the "crash," only to discover that for many patients, it was too late. But the nightmare was just beginning. Not more than 30 minutes after the plane crashed, an "explosion" erupted at the Main Post Shoppette.

At Camp Funston, firefighters rushed between the victims scattered across the rail yard. After a quick examination, firefighters determined which victims required immediate medical attention and which could wait.

Two Soldiers had life-threatening injuries. They immediately were placed on stretchers and transported by ambulance to Irwin Army Community Hospital where emergency personnel were on standby waiting for the wounded to arrive.

A few miles away at the burned-out Shoppette, a female victim clutched her stomach and cried out in pain. She was pregnant and injured. Again, firefighters went from one victim to another. "Are you in pain?" "Where are you injured?"



Post/O'Dell  
A Fort Riley firefighter checks over Pfc. Jonathan Patton, Co. B, STB, 3rd HBCT, during a mass casualty exercise Oct. 18 at the Main Post Shoppette. Patton had a simulated leg injury after an "explosion" at the Shoppette.

IACH must simulate mass casualty events to maintain accreditation with the Joint Commission Accreditation for Hospital Organizations. Fort Riley collaborated with agencies off post, including Geary Community Hospital and state emergency officials to simulate the necessity of including off-post resources. Emergency responders, hospital personnel and installation

colleagues at a disaster," said Lt. Col. John Groves, head of nursing at IACH. "You want to meet them at a practice disaster. I don't want to arrive on the scene and find out who the chief firefighter is. I want to have two or three exercises with him. Things will go much smoother," Groves said.

agencies practiced their standard operating procedures and evaluated the effectiveness after the event.

"It was successful. We were able to exercise our capabilities in response to a crisis," said Lisa Medrano, IACH public affairs officer.

Another simulated crisis exercise is planned in January 2008.

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# Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, October 26, 2007

Home of the Big Red One

Page 11

## Sports news in brief

### Junior lifeguard training slated

The American Red Cross Guard Start Junior Lifeguard Training Program will be offered at Eyster Pool beginning Nov. 3.

The program is for youth ages 11 to 15 years and is \$45. The training will be offered on Nov. 3, 10, 17 and Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22. For more information, call 239-9441.

### Horseback rides scheduled

Enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Flint Hills by horseback. Three sessions will be provided with transportation from the Outdoor Recreation Center to Sun Rock Ranch for an hour and a half horseback ride across trails on the ranch Oct. 27 and Nov. 3 and 17.

The first group will leave from the Outdoor Recreation Center at 9 a.m., the second session will leave at 11 a.m. and the final session will leave at 2 p.m.

The cost is \$25 per person and participants must register in advance.

Interested individuals can contact the Outdoor Recreation Center at 239-2363.

### FROG to offer youth hunts

The Fort Riley Outdoorsmen Group will host free youth deer hunts Nov. 24, Dec. 22 and Dec. 29 at Fort Riley. Experienced deer hunters will guide the youths, who must be 9-16 years of age (may be waived based on experience). No hunting experience is required. Priority will be given to youths with deployed parents. Hunter orange vests and hats and a limited number of firearms and shells will be available for those who have none. The Clay Center Locker has volunteered basic processing for any deer harvested during the hunt. The last day for registration will be Nov. 17. All participants must attend a half-day orientation Nov. 17. For more information or to register, e-mail the FROG at [fortrileyoutdoorsmengroup@yahoo.com](mailto:fortrileyoutdoorsmengroup@yahoo.com).

### Hunter's safety course slated

Fort Riley's Outdoor Recreation Center will host a hunter's safety course from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 27 at Building 9011.

All hunters born on or after July 1, 1957, are required to complete a hunter's safety course.

Individuals interested in registering for the course can call Outdoor Rec at 239-2363. A \$10 deposit is required upon registration and will be returned at the beginning of the course.

The course is open only to Department of Defense ID cardholders and participants must be at least 11 years of age by the date of the course. For more information, call 239-2363.

### Dance classes offered

Teen Hip Hop and Urban Dance is offered every Monday and Saturday through the Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills.

For more information, call 239-4847 or 239-5440.

# Touchdown



Staff Sgt. Patrick Zeno, Co. A, 125th BSB, 3rd HBCT, leaps up to catch a touchdown pass from quarterback Cpl. James Bishop during a flag football game Oct. 23 at Sturgis Stadium.

## 125th BSB continues winning streak

By Laura Stroda  
Staff writer

Scoring early and often has been the mantra this flag football season for Soldiers of Company A, 125th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team. So far, it's working. The team is undefeated and continued its streak Oct. 23 with a 19-8 win over Headquarters and

Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade. "We score quickly. That's the object of the game," said coach Staff Sgt. Major Heggs. "As long as we can get ahead in the beginning, our defense will take care of the job." Soldiers of Alpha Company also had fresh legs to rotate in for offense and defense. The "Devil" Brigade Soldiers were on the field the entire game, making

it difficult to keep up with a faster pace. "Iron man, underdog football is how it's been all season long for us," said HHC coach Maj. James Woods. "We love a challenge and it's all about fun." Neither team scored in the first quarter and penalties plagued both squads throughout the game. Alpha Company

See Flag football, Page 13

## Youth cheer team to begin

Registration to open Oct. 29

By Laura Stroda  
Staff writer

Girls in first through eighth grades soon will have a new athletic opportunity during the winter months. Child and Youth Services is starting a youth cheerleading program consisting of squads that will cheer during youth basketball games.

Head coach Gina Brisby said she's been involved with similar programs at other Army posts and was excited about spearheading Fort Riley's cheerleading program.

"There's not a lot of sports that the girls really enjoy during that time of year and this is all about fun," she said.

Registration, which runs Oct. 29 through Nov. 9 in conjunction with youth basketball registration, is open to children of any active duty Soldier or Department of the Army civilian. No one is required to try out for the squads - which will be divided into age-appropriate groups.

Girls wanting to participate can be experienced or completely new to the sport, Brisby said.

"We bring the girls together to help build team spirit," she said. "It isn't competitive at all. I think this is going to be really good for the girls and their self-esteem because of that."

Practice will start Dec. 1 and the first game is in mid-January, Brisby said. The season wraps up in early March. During the basketball games, the squads will do mostly cheers and chants. Throws and tumbling are limited because of safety reasons, Brisby said.

During evening practices, the girls will learn about basketball and what cheers are appropriate during the games. The squads also will perform at halftime.

"We'll have the girls watch a game and figure out when they need to change up the cheers," Brisby said. "Each girl will also have the opportunity to be the head cheerleader and make those decisions."

To enroll in the cheerleading program, children must first be registered with Child and Youth Services. They're also required to have a sports physical on file. Registration costs \$30 per child and \$24 for each additional child. For that registration fee, the participant gets a T-shirt and pom-poms to keep.

"We'll check out skirts to them and they're responsible for getting their own bloomers that go under the skirts. We've got magazines for them to order those from," Brisby said.

For more information about the youth cheerleading program, call 239-9223 or 239-9200. Volunteers interested in coaching can contact Brisby at 784-4650.

## Combatives team fights to second place

By Sgt. Brian Tierce  
3rd HBCT PAO

The Fort Riley Combatives Team had a lot of work to do and just a little time to do it. With just an eight-week training module before heading to the All-Army Combatives Tournament, the team knew there was no margin for error.

"We had eight weeks to put the guys together and get them the training and do everything," said Joe Wilk, Fort Riley combatives instructor. "We were kind of the 'Bad News Bears' of the All-Army tournament, and the guys did great. They exceeded expectations for sure."

The bar was set high by the Fort Riley combatives team last year, which finished second overall in the All-Army tournament. But that didn't stop this year's team from going to Fort Benning, Ga., and building on their past

See Combatives, Page 13



Pfc. Michael Goede (top) of the Fort Riley Combatives Team grapples with an opponent during the All-Army Combatives Tournament held at Fort Benning, Ga. Goede went on to win fourth place overall in the cruiserweight division.

1st Bde./Espinosa

## Crafty squirrels adaptable to country, city life



By Alan Hynek  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Among urbanites, there is a love-hate relationship with squirrels. Considered a pest by some and entertainment by others, squirrels tend to be equally at home in the city as in the country. A quick check of Web sites available on the Internet for squirrels verifies the common theme for the urban dwelling rodents. Either you love

### On the Wildside: News About Nature

them, or you hate them. The red, or fox squirrel, is by far the most common in Kansas and is found throughout the state. Gray squirrels are found only in the eastern third of Kansas, but are the most common in North America. Both squirrels spend most of their time on the ground foraging for food. They cache nuts for later consumption in

shallow holes in the ground. Urban squirrels tend to be much more bold than their wild counterparts. It is not uncommon to get within a few feet of these domestic squirrels, a feat that is nearly impossible in the wild. Squirrels are members of the rodent family. Eight species of "tree squirrels" can be found in North America along with two addi-

tional species: the southern and northern flying squirrels, which also are related. The eastern gray squirrel is usually gray or brownish-gray with a white or lighter gray belly. The red squirrel, also a tree squirrel, is smaller and has reddish brown fur with white underparts. Both are active during daylight hours and are primarily herbivores, feeding on roots, stems, bark, shoots, leaves, fruits, nuts, seeds, fungi, flower bulbs and

See Squirrels, Page 12





# Fort Riley wives to run Marine Corps Marathon

By Spc. Dustin Roberts  
1st Inf. Div. PAO

Six Army wives are making sacrifices in their busy lives to support military Families by running in the Marine Corps Marathon, a 26.2-mile full marathon Oct. 28 in Washington, D.C.

The women will be running with more than 200 runners representing the Fisher House, a foundation that helps military Families across the globe.

The Fisher House Foundation has placed 38 homes near major military and veteran administration hospitals. The homes provide a place for military Families to live while a Family member receives treatment at the nearby hospital.

Since February, the Fort Riley team has raised more than \$7,000 in support of the foundation, which has raised more than \$220,000 this year.

"We decided to do it for a worthy cause," said Karen Weaver, whose husband, Lt. Col. Robert Weaver, commander of the 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, is deployed to Iraq. "To know that the foundation will continue to provide a place for Families to go

and to know that I am helping them means the world to me."

Weaver, who is the 610th BSB's Family Readiness Group adviser, said her decision to run the marathon has given confidence to the other members of her FRG.

"I always encourage them to do something for themselves, and this is something for me," Weaver said. "Doing something for yourself, no matter what it is, will help in the long run."

The women have trained for 18 weeks, relying on each other for support.

"We follow our training program religiously," Weaver said. "We make sure we eat and sleep well and we just have a great support system. None of us are tired on the same day so you always have the other ones to pick you up."

Slaying motivated and keeping their eyes on their goal hasn't always been easy.

"We stay strong and balance each other," said Norma Mahony, whose husband, Lt. Col. Michael Mahony, commander of the 1st Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, also is deployed to Iraq.

Lisa Thomas, who is married to Lt. Col. Bobby R. Thomas Jr.,

commander of the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, participated in the marathon last year, which was the first time Fisher House had a team.

"Training for this run is like adding a part-time job to your life," Thomas said. "It requires a lot of time and commitment. The longest we have run in training is 20 miles, and those last six in the marathon are tough."

Although the final miles in a full marathon are difficult, finding motivation to cross the finish line is not.

"If my husband can do 15 months in Iraq," Weaver said, "I can run 26 miles."

They even have endured injuries and inclement weather, making sure they are ready no matter what.

"We just have to work through the pain and stick with it," Thomas said. "We've come too far not to finish."

Knowing that they are running the Marine Corps Marathon for their Families and other military Families all over the world, the six wives from Fort Riley said they are too determined to fail.

"Because the Soldiers and Families have made a sacrifice,



Fort Riley spouses Lisa Thomas, Norma Mahony and Stacy Tyler run around Moon Lake on post during an 8-mile practice run in preparation for the Marine Corps Marathon Oct. 28 in Washington D.C. The three runners make up half of the team representing Fort Riley and the Fisher House Team.

you want to do something back for them," Mahony said. "I'm going to cross that finish line with both arms up and a grin from ear to ear."

The other three wives running are:

Jennifer Frank, whose husband, Lt. Col. Patrick Frank, commander, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th IBCT is currently deployed to Iraq.

Holly Swartz, whose husband, Maj. Nathan Swartz, support

operations officer, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th IBCT, is currently deployed to Iraq.

Stacy Tyler, who is married to Lt. Col. Joel K. Tyler, commander, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 3rd HBCT.



4th IBCT, 1st Inf. Div. Smith

## Opening day

Ahmed Hashem awards players trophies and medals after the first game at the newly opened soccer field in southern Baghdad's Doura neighborhood, Oct. 17. The soccer field was made possible through Hashem's efforts, working with the "Raiders" of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

## Squirrels continued from page 11

occasionally insects. Because they have rootless teeth that keep growing, they must gnaw continuously to wear them down. Otherwise, they would be unable to close their mouths, and their teeth would continue to grow and eventually prevent them from feeding.

Squirrels have slender toes with sharp claws that make them excellent climbers. They keep busy collecting and hoarding seeds and other food. Red squirrels will store food where they live, whereas grays will store it elsewhere. They often store more than they need and sometimes forget where they stashed it. This contributes to reforestation by scattering seeds that will take root and grow in a new location.

Gray or red squirrels generally build their nests high up in trees, in hollow trunks or forks. Others are between thick branches using moss, twigs and dry leaves. Sometimes squirrels will live in colonies with several nests shared amongst them. Although they do not hibernate, they will

spend long hours in their nests during winter. Red squirrels will stay in their nests for days since they have food stored, whereas grays will go out of their nests every day.

Gray squirrels mate in January or February and again around July; reds mate in February or March and again in July or August. The gestation period is 38 to 44 days. One to seven hairless and blind pups are born in a litter. They do not venture out of the nest until seven to eight weeks and are not weaned until 10 to 12 weeks. Their average life span is five to eight years.

The ability of squirrels to adapt to a varied environment combined with their intelligence and curiosity has made them prolific urban dwellers. Squirrels have adapted a cunning approach to acquiring their food in the city. They are nearly impossible to keep out of a bird feeder and are at home running across a power line just as they are a limb. Any entrance to an attic is fair game for acorn storage, causing damage to

homes and utilities.

Squirrel hunting season in Kansas is long, running from June 1 to Feb. 29 for both species. It is open statewide with a liberal daily bag limit of five and possession limit of 20. Squirrel hunting is challenging and rewarding. On Fort Riley, the squirrel harvest has remained fairly steady for many years.

Black squirrels are not a separate species but rather a melanistic phase of the fox squirrel. The nearby town of Marysville is known as the "Black Squirrel City." Legend has it that a circus that was in town in the early 1900s had several black squirrels escape from the show. Whether that is true or not is unknown, but genetics that produce black squirrels are certainly in the area. Black squirrels also can be found occasionally in the Main Post area of Fort Riley. For more information on this or other wildlife subjects, please call the Conservation Office at 239-6211 or visit our Web site at [www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/Environment/NatResources/](http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/Environment/NatResources/).

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### Congrats

Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin, commanding general, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, congratulates members of the Fort Riley combatives team upon their return to post from the All-Army Combatives Tournament at Fort Benning, Ga., where the team placed second.

PAO/Rhodes

## Combatives

continued from page 11

success. "This year we expanded on the standard we set last year," said David Dumil, Level 4 Fort Riley combatives instructor. "I was very happy with the results we were able to produce through our very unique training module that we've been using with Kansas State University."

The training module may have helped sharpen the Soldiers' combative skills, but the team's past experiences also came into play. "I'm not too into the whole jujitsu, take-down stuff," said Staff Sgt. Rudy Romero II, "but once they started adding the slapping and kicking, I fought a lot as a kid and that came into play and helped very much."

The Fort Riley competitors brought home the second place trophy and also impressed one of the key figures in the world of Army combatives.

"The Fort Riley team has been one of the strongest teams since they started," said Matt Larsen, director of the Army Combatives Program. "As far as quality of fighter, quality of coaching - definitely one of the premiere teams in the Army."

In the end, four Soldiers from Fort Riley fought in the finals. Pfc. Matthew Bray of the 2nd Battalion 70th Armor Regiment, won first place in the lightweight division



Pfc. Matthew Bray of the Fort Riley Combatives Team is announced as the winner of an early round match at the All-Army Combatives Tournament held at Fort Benning, Ga. Bray went on to win the overall title in the lightweight division.

1st Bde./Espinoza

to secure the team's only first-place finish. Romero, also from 2nd Bn., 70th Armor Regt., finished fourth place in their respective divisions. With the third All-Army Combatives Tournament on the books, the competitors from Fort Riley have proven once again they are a force to be reckoned with. But, most

importantly the fighters know they did the best they could. "The team came out here to give its all and that's what we did," Romero said. "We got four guys to the finals, so I think we did very well."

## Flag football

continued from page 11

finally managed to get in the red zone when quarterback Cpl. James Bishop broke loose to get the ball on the 15-yard line. On the next play, he hooked up with receiver Staff Sgt. Patrick Zeno for a touchdown. Sgt. James Moran caught the pass from Bishop for the extra point.

On the second play of HHC's ensuing drive, Pfc. John Lionetti picked off the pass and Alpha Company ran the clock out to end the half.

Alpha Company opened the second half on offense and made short work of HHC's defense. Bishop completed a pass to Staff Sgt. Ellis Wilcher at about the 38-yard line. Wilcher then streaked up the sideline to put six more on the board for Alpha Company.

The Devil Brigade Soldiers neatly made it to midfield on the ensuing drive when quarterback

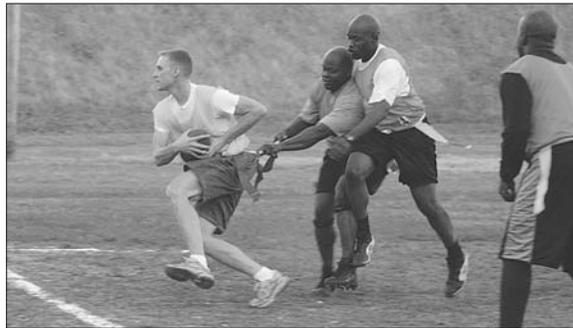
Spe. Brian Avery pitched the ball to Spe. Kacee Leekley, who then passed the ball to Pfc. James Maddox. Maddox ran the ball to just short of a first down, but a penalty against Maddox for guarding his flags brought the ball back to about the 25-yard line. Avery passed to Spe. Sopheap Ros at the 35-yard line and Ros attempted to make a second pass, but it fell incomplete. After two more incomplete attempts by Avery, HHC turned the ball over on downs at its own 39-yard line.

The third quarter expired with Alpha Company in possession of the ball and leading 13-0. Bishop made a run to about the 9-yard line before attempting a pass, which was incomplete. On the next play, Bishop handed the ball off to Zeno, who ran it in for his second touchdown of the night. The two-point attempt was no

good. Bishop said he doesn't normally score multiple touchdowns in a game, but "it felt really good" to have two in one night.

The offense finally came alive for HHC on the next drive. After a short run and pass, the team found itself in enemy territory. Avery then completed a pass to 1st Sgt. Derrick Brown, who got HHC within striking distance at the 18-yard line. What worked well once did a second time, as Avery connected with Brown for their first touchdown of the game. Avery passed to Woods for the first pass of the two-point conversion attempt and then Woods found Ros in the endzone to for the deuce.

Alpha Company had time for just two plays before time ran out and only made it to their own 38-yard line.



Post/Sroda

Spe. Brian Avery, HHC, 1st Bde., (left) tries to evade defenders Oct. 23 during a flag football game at Sturgis Stadium. Avery's team lost 19-8 to Soldiers from Co. A, 125th BSB, 3rd HBCI.



Post/Sroda

Spe. Sopheap Ros, HHC, 1st Bde., (left) reaches for the flags of quarterback Cpl. James Bishop, Co. A, 125th BSB, 3rd HBCI, Oct. 23 during a flag football game at Sturgis Stadium. Soldiers of Alpha Company continued their undefeated streak with a 19-8 win.

### Alpha League Standings

(as of Oct. 22)

Team	W	L	Forfeits
Co. A, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor	7	0	-
Co. A, 125th BSB	6	0	-
Co. C, 1st Bn., 41st Inf.	7	2	-
Co. G, 125th BSB	5	3	1
HHC, 1st Bn., 41st Inf.	4	5	-
HHC, 1st Bde.	2	5	-
HQ, 1st Inf. Div., OSIA	2	5	-
HHC, STB, 3rd HBCI	5	1	1
HHC, 3rd HBCI	5	4	-

Standings provided by the Fort Riley Sports Office

### Bravo League Standings

(as of Oct. 22)

Team	W	L	Forfeits
172nd Chem. Co.	1	3	-
300th MP Co.	3	2	-
Btry. A, 4th Bn., 1st FA	1	3	1
Btry. B, 4th Bn., 1st FA	0	4	1
Co. B, 101st FSB	6	0	-
Co. B, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor	0	3	-
Co. E, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor	1	3	-
Co. F, 125th BSB	5	1	-
HHC, 1st Bn., 34th Armor	3	1	-

Standings provided by the Fort Riley Sports Office

### Charlie League Standings

(as of Oct. 22)

Team	W	L	Forfeits
1st Bn., 16th Inf.	4	2	-
630th EOD	5	2	-
Co. A, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor	2	3	1
Troop B, 1st Sqdn., 13th Cav.	4	4	-
Troop D, 1st Sqdn., 13th Cav.	3	2	-
HHC, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor	1	2	1
HQ, 1st Inf. Div.	7	0	-
TFD, 166th Avn. Bde.	1	4	1

Standings provided by the Fort Riley Sports Office

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST  
2 x 2"  
Black Only  
2x2colleg@tst.af

RANDY DAVIS DENTISTRY  
2 x 2"  
Black Only  
2x2\_randydavis\_10/05\_TF\_9342

STATE FARM INSURANCE  
2 x 2"  
Black Only  
2x2.state.seg.t.f.ad



# Teams compete in 3-on-3 Scion Slam

By Laura Stroda  
Staff writer

Anyone who stopped by Rally Point Oct. 20 for the third-annual Scion Slam found out quickly that the event was more than your average basketball tournament.

Kids were busy in the Game Zone tent, playing baseball on Nintendo Wii and rocking out on PlayStation 2's Guitar Hero. Adults were test-driving the latest Scion cars and listening to XM portable radios. A DJ spinning hip-hop tunes kept the crowd on its feet throughout the day, and local Soldiers and car enthusiasts were showing off their rides in the Scion Slammed Car Show.

In fact, if it weren't for the hoops set up in the parking lot, the average observer may not have realized the event revolved around a three-on-three basketball tournament.

Organizers of the Scion Slam said they wanted to make sure everyone had a good time — not just the athletes.

"Families seem to love it," said tournament director, Chris Elrich. "It's fun. They're playing while they're watching the games ... It keeps them entertained."

The Scion Slam tour has come to Fort Riley since the tournament began in 2005. The 12-stop tour starts in September and visits a different military installation each week. The tour is coordinated

with installation Directorates of Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Twenty-seven teams competed Oct. 20 in the men's division and there were six entries in the newly-formed women's division. This is the first year the tournament has featured a women's division and Elrich said it has increased participation and spectator turnout.

"We had quite a few women's teams (at Fort Riley). We've only had about four or five teams entered at other bases," he said.

Elrich said Fort Riley seems to have a pretty good turnout for the three-on-three tournament and the tour likely will return to the post again next year.



Nikia Sanderlin drives the lane against Spc. Keosha Spurs during the women's semifinal game of the Scion Slam three-on-three basketball tournament Oct. 20 at Rally Point.

Post/Stroda

## Winners

### 3-on-3 tournament

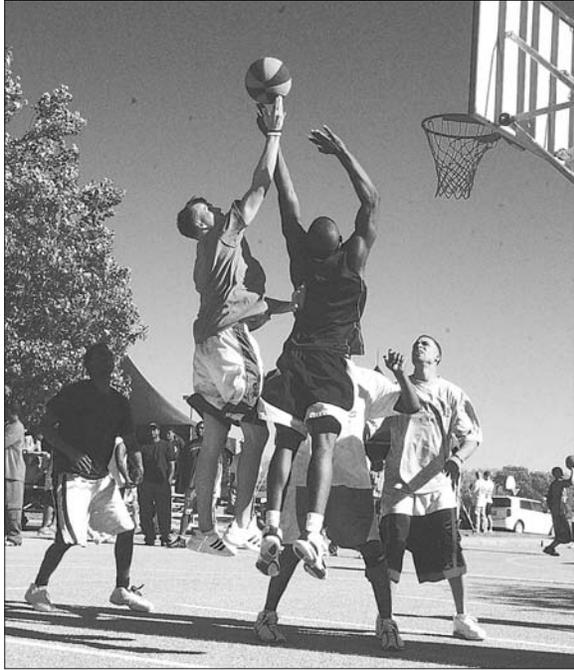
- Men's Division**  
1. Original Ballaz  
2. DJ Davags  
3. Beast Masters

- Women's Division**  
1. Lady Bulldogs  
2. Undecided

### Scion Slammed Car Show

- Scion (military)**  
1. Nate Berg, 2006 Scion xB  
2. Byron Buckle, 2006 Scion iC

- All others**  
1. Tim Milke, 2002 Toyota Celica  
2. Frank Redondo, 1999 Ford Ranger



Players go up for a rebound during the third place men's game at the the Scion Slam three-on-three basketball tournament Oct. 20 on post.

Post/Stroda

# Student breaks 'dumb jock' stereotype

By Laura Stroda  
Staff writer

Football players traditionally have fought the "dumb jock" stigma in the classroom.

But not Reggie America.

Though he plans to play football in college next year, America's career plans show he's counting on brains — not brawn — to carry him through life. The Junction City High School senior is more interested in math and science — specifically the bioscience industry that is rapidly expanding in the Junction City and Fort Riley area.

"I want to be part of that (growing industry)," America said. "Science is something that really interests me."

His father, Staff Sgt. Richard America, described his son as an "excellent student" who is very determined, on the field and in the classroom.

America has played sports most of his life. His dad said he recognized Reggie's football skills when he was a 7-year-old playing Pop Warner football in Germany.

"I realized then that he had a lot of potential," Richard said. America is a dual-sport athlete

at JCHS — defending against run and pass plays as a safety during the football season and catching fly balls in the outfield for the Blue Jays baseball team in the spring. America said he's got several area colleges interested in his football prowess, including Kansas State University, Emporia State University and the University of Missouri.

"Hopefully his skills pay off for him and possibly get him an education," Richard said. "From there, who knows? The sky's the limit."

The JCHS senior said he has learned teamwork and trust in his years on the field and counts his father as a driving force in his life.

"My dad is really an inspiration to me because even on bad days, he still gets up and goes to work and does what he has to do," America said.

Richard said he's enjoyed watching his son develop into a leader both on and off the field.

"He's definitely a different person on the football field ... at times he can be kind of an intimidating leader," Richard said. "But he's very vocal no matter where he is ... He likes to take charge and get things done. He has a very strong will to succeed."



Junction City's Reggie America (background) tackles Highland Park quarterback Courtney Caraway during the Blue Jays' game Sept. 7 against the Topeka school.

Daily Union/Cruz

## Post seeks athletes

The Post would like to feature stories on Fort Riley student athletes. If you or your child would like to be featured in the Post, send your contact information, along with the best time to contact you, to [anna.morelock@cons.army.mil](mailto:anna.morelock@cons.army.mil) or call 239-8854.

HOUSE FILL AD  
2 x 2"  
Black Only

TRICARE COUNSELING  
1 x 1"  
Black Only  
1x1 Tricare

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
2 x 2"  
Black Only  
2x2 First United Methodist t f

MANHATTAN SHOE REPAIR  
1 x 3"  
Black Only  
1x3, ManShoe, Oct. TF07518075, ct.

MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERS  
1 x 3"  
Black Only  
1X3 Police Careers

CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMAC  
2 x 2"  
Black Only  
2x2Candlewood t f

HOUSE FILL AD

MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERS  
1 x 3"  
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1X3 Police Careers

MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERS  
1 x 3"  
Black Only  
1X3 Police Careers

CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMAC  
2 x 2"  
Black Only  
2x2Candlewood t f

ALEX'S AFFORDABLE EYE-WEAR  
1 x 4"  
Black Only  
1x4, Alex, 10/07, OctIF, 8140, ct.

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHI  
1 x 3"  
Black Only  
1x3Lighthouse f

SCREEN MACHINE  
2 x 2"  
Black Only  
2x2ScreenMachine

SCREEN MACHINE  
2 x 2"  
Black Only  
2x2ScreenMachine

CINEMA 12/MANHATTAN, FS  
1 x 4.5"  
Black Only  
1x4, SCarmike03/01new



# Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, October 26, 2007

Home of the Big Red One

Page 15

## Community news briefly

### Infant massage class offered

The Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration & Skills is now offering Infant Massage Therapy Workshops for parents and caregivers. The workshops are instructed by a Certified Infant Massage Therapist and are 90 minutes long.

The cost is \$35 for a group workshop and \$45 for an additional private workshop. Sessions are offered on Mondays and Tuesdays at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

It is recommended the infant arrive at least one hour after last feeding. The workshop will be instructed in Building 6620, Child and Youth Services. Minimum enrollment required.

The infant must be registered with CYS. Free classes are available for deployed Soldier's children for up to eight weeks at a time. All instructional classes are included in the free program. A copy of the Soldier's orders is required.

For more information, call 239-4723.

### FAP to host workshop

The Family Advocacy Program will hold a free workshop for parents from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Oct. 29 at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 726.

"Keep Your Child Safe: At Home and In the Community," will provide information about protection and supervision of minors, curfews, Amber Alerts and Code Adams. Free child ID kits will be provided while supplies last.

Free child care will be provided for individuals who register in advance. For more information or to register, call 239-9435.

### Chaplains offer BLTs for youth

Bible Lunch Tuesday, better known as BLT, provides a free lunch and short Christian devotional to any interested Junction City High School student. Students can catch a ride on one of the local area church vans that park near the school band room doors or walk/drive over to the First Southern Baptist Church, 1220 West 8th, behind the JCHS tennis courts. BLT meets every Tuesday for both lunch periods during the school year and feeds 80-100 students each week. For more information, please contact Don Ericson, Protestant religious education specialist, at the Installation Chaplain's Office, 239-0979.

### Library food drive in gear

You are invited to join the Fort Riley Post Library in helping those less fortunate this holiday season.

Donations of canned foods will be accepted at the Library, Building 5306 during regular business hours.

All donated food will be distributed to those less fortunate in our area.

Please call the Library Desk at 239-5305 for more information.

### Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening at Fort Riley. Watch cable Channel 2 every day at 8 a.m., noon and 6 p.m.

## Committees address AFAP issues

By Anna Staatz  
Staff writer

After two days of meetings, discussions and planning, representatives from various post groups outlined what they viewed as the top issues facing Soldiers and their Families. As a part of the Army Family Action Plan, group representatives out-briefed 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley Commanding General Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin and Command Sgt. Maj. John Fourhman Oct. 17 at

Riley's Conference Center.

Durbin thanked those who had worked on the briefing and said those who had contributed had done much to make the support of Soldiers and Families at Fort Riley better.

### Force Support

(Medical/Dental, Family Readiness)

Speakers representing force support identified their group's number one issue as the lack of on-post housing and rising costs

in local off-post housing. The group listed "inadequate basic allowance for housing, property values of homes rented by Soldiers not matching true property worth, and inadequate on-post housing as problem points. Their recommendations were to increase rental property standards on the housing referral list, appoint a committee to oversee the rising cost of living in the Fort Riley area, increase on-post housing to support 55 percent of the Families — up from the current 33 percent — and refuse to list the

properties of landlords and companies that engage in price gouging.

The second issue listed by force support was standardizing separate rations disbursement. Force support representatives said that Soldiers should be given a choice in whether or not meals are deducted from their pay, since many do not eat at the dining facilities. The group noted other posts are giving Soldiers that option. The recommendation was to implement an automated system that deducts meals from the

basic allowance for substance rate and refunding unused funds to Soldiers the following pay period.

The third issue the group focused on was a shortage of medical resources at Fort Riley. Presenters said the Wounded Warrior Program and transition team mission have adverse effects on health care for Fort Riley's Soldiers, Families and retirees. In addition, force protection representatives said Irwin Army Community Hospital has constraints

See AFAP, Page 21

## All aboard



Post/O'Dell

Dominique Valentino, 3, looks out the train window Oct. 19 during a ride from Fort Riley to Manhattan.

## Families ride rails, learn about train safety

By Dena O'Dell  
Staff writer

As the bus pulled into the parking lot of the First Territorial Capitol of Kansas at Fort Riley, children turned to their parents and began to chatter in unison, "There's the Choo-Choo," and "Look Mommy, a train." For some of the children, who

ranged from infants to just more than 10 years of age, it was the first time they had ever seen a passenger train, let alone ridden in one.

That was the whole idea, according to Dick Wollenberg, chief of the Directorate of Logistics' Transportation Division, to give people an opportunity to ride a train — a mode of transportation that steadily is becoming a thing of the past.

"Not very many people get a chance to ride on a train anymore," he said. "This is an effort to change that—at least for a day."

So, on Oct. 19, 50 Soldiers, Family members and Army civilians boarded a Union Pacific passenger train destined for Manhattan.

As the train chugged along the tracks, it

See Train ride, Page 20

## ITR offers travel deals

Near or far, Families can find trip discounts

By Anna Staatz  
Staff writer

Whether you're planning to leave the Fort Riley area for a day trip to Kansas City or leaving Kansas for the ski slopes or ocean waves, Fort Riley's Information, Ticketing and Registration Office is a one-stop shop for Soldiers, Families and civilian employees.

### Area Attractions

ITR offers tickets to varying sports and regional events throughout the year. Currently, they have a limited number of tickets for Kansas City Chiefs games. Tickets for the games only are \$85. If you opt to ride in the coach bus that leaves Fort Riley about five hours before game time, the package is \$100 — ticket and transportation.

ITR also offers tickets to Celebration City and Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo., along with Six Flags Over Texas and Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure in Salina. Servicemembers can receive up to four free tickets to Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks per year. Teresa Mayes, ITR manager, said Department of Defense patrons should check with ITR about tickets, since they frequently have them available at deeply discounted prices.

See ITR, Page 20

## Picerner celebrates past year by looking ahead

By Sam Robinson  
Picerner Military Housing

In just 15 months of operation, Picerner Military Housing has transformed the face of housing on Fort Riley. More than 1,000 homes have received first-turn improvements, more than 200 have been renovated and 55 new homes are under construction.

Picerner's Family housing plan involves three major areas of work: property management, development and construction. All three areas are making a number of changes to Fort Riley housing, which will allow Picerner to better serve Army Families and will give the Families living on post a better quality of life.

One of the more noticeable changes to Family housing on post is the establishment of six neighborhood offices. The offices all have a team of local professionals who help with moving in

and out, answering questions, organizing Family activities and providing maintenance to the Families in the neighborhood.

Picerner neighborhood offices are open seven days a week so Families can get assistance at times that better suit them.

"We have moved in over 2,000 Families since we assumed responsibility for on-post Family housing in July 2006," said John Pearsall, community management director. "We saw a higher than usual turnover rate when 4th (Infantry Brigade Combat Team) deployed, however occupancy has remained high."

The demand for on-post housing has remained constant at Fort Riley. The Relocation Office, which is located in Carr Hall, 45 Barry Ave., has seen more than 5,000 military Families in 2007. Currently the wait list for on-post housing ranges from three to 24 months depending on a Family's needs and the rank of the service-



member.

Another change for Families living on post has been the assumption of lawn care services by Picerner Military Housing.

"I think the lawn care we provide has made a positive, visual impact on the overall appearance of the neighborhoods," Pearsall said. "We'll have fall clean up again this year, and we will continue to expand the turf and lawn management programs next year."

Local neighborhood maintenance teams have been very busy. Through September 2007 more than 52,000 work orders have been completed. Picerner Military Housing's maintenance team at Fort Riley ranked No. 1 in an Army survey in response to emergency work orders.

In addition to the emergency and routine maintenance provided by neighborhood teams, the construction team has been working hard to improve the overall quality of existing Fort Riley homes. Because Families will continue to live in houses that are not slated for demolition for several years, the construction team handles each "first turn" upon move-out and prior to move-in by Families arriving at Fort Riley.

All of these first-turn homes receive updates that may include new flooring, new appliances and fresh paint. Any deferred maintenance items are addressed at this time as well.

"The first turn and minor renovation program served as a great tune up for our construction team as they prepared to start work on more extensive renovations and new homes," said Brian Beauregard, program director.

"To date we have completed over 30 medium renovations," said Scott Kotwas, director of construction. "The scope includes reconfiguring most of the four bedroom homes to a more spacious three bedroom with a large owner's suite and a private bath. We have also started to repaint the homes and upgrade the landscaping."

Additionally, heating, plumbing, electrical and communication systems are updated. Several homes in Colyer Manor have received this type of renovation at a total cost of approximately \$37,000 per home, Kotwas said.

See Picerner, Page 21



# Community members get their questions answered

## Staff report

If you have a question about a customer service-related issue you'd like answered, please use the Interactive Customer Evaluation Web site at <http://ice.dixa.mil>.

While all questions will be answered, only those with a wide range of interest will be included here due to space limitations. Also, please attend the next town hall meeting, slated for November 28, to get all questions and answers generated from that forum.

**Q: Why isn't there bus service after 5 p.m. and on weekends? As a Soldier who lives in the barracks and can't afford a car, I spend a lot of money on taxis just to get to places like the Commissary or the Post Exchange. It's not good for morale. I spend a lot of time stuck in the barracks because I have no way of getting around. An after-hours and weekend shuttle bus would be great because it would give Soldiers access to public transportation during the**



times when they need it the most — after hours and on weekends.

**A:** The new shuttle bus service is designed to support servicemembers with transportation to and from duty-related locations, with all other passengers on a space available basis. As for extending the hours of the bus service into the evening and weekends, that has not been considered yet. Normally such a service (not mission/duty related) would be provided by a commercial service provider for a per use cost. See page 7 in this week's Post for a list of shuttle stops.

...

**Q: As the population at Fort Riley grows, does the Army and Air Force Exchange Service have any plans to bring a sit-down Family restaurant here?**

**A:** This is a complicated issue. Post officials are very interested in getting a restaurant on post and are working every means to make it happen.

...

**Q: Why is gas more expensive on post than in Ogden or other local gas stations?**

**A:** Motor fuels are priced to be competitive with local community sell prices, which will generate an accept-

able rate of return to AAFES and provide a reasonable price to the customer. At Fort Riley, five outside gas stations are surveyed daily, to ensure the prices on post are competitive. Two of the stations surveyed are just outside the gate in Junction City, and three are outside the gate in Ogden.

Based on an average of these five stations, AAFES sets its fuel sell price for that day. However, it will never sell fuel below cost. Therefore, there may be times that prices don't line up directly with the stations outside the gates.

In addition, there may be times when the prices between the two cities vary by a large amount, and the average puts AAFES below one city or another. For example, Ogden stations may have an average price of \$2.63, and Junction City stations have a price of \$2.69. Based on that data, the post gas stations would set their price at around \$2.66, depending on the cost of fuel.

...

**Q: Why do Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities require a social**

**security number to appear on personal checks?**

**A:** Department of Defense financial regulations require the following information to be placed on checks payable to the government: name, rank, current address, social security number, organization and telephone number. If the person is a Family member, the sponsor's information should be provided. Here at Fort Riley, MWR is looking at ways to fulfill this requirement without actually having the social security number on the check.

## Concerned?

Have a concern you'd like to see addressed here? In addition to sending a comment to the ICE system, you can e-mail [fishman.paul.fisher@us.army.mil](mailto:fishman.paul.fisher@us.army.mil). We want to hear from you. Please include your name and contact information to ensure you receive a response. Your name will not appear in the Post.



Post/Staff

## Honoring Eisenhower

Maj. Gen. Robert Durbin, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, escorts Mary Jean Eisenhower, granddaughter of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Oct. 13 during a special wreath-laying ceremony at his gravesite in Abilene. The annual ceremony commemorates the late president's birthday. Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division provided the honor guard for the ceremony.

## IACH Preventive Medicine offers help to stop smoking

By Pete Weimers, RN  
Preventive Medicine

The American Cancer Society's Great American Smoakout will be held Nov. 15.

For those of you who have tried unsuccessfully to quit smoking, you know how hard it can be. The difficulty comes from the fact nicotine is a very addictive drug. For some, it can be as addictive as heroin or cocaine.

The U.S. Department of Health states it usually takes people two or three tries, or more, before finally being able to quit. Each time you try to quit, you can learn about what works for you and what doesn't. While quitting takes hard work and a lot of effort, you can quit smoking.

There are many good reasons for quitting. You will live longer and live better. Quitting will lower your chance of having a heart attack, stroke or cancer. If you are pregnant, quitting smok-



Pete Weimers

## Smokeout

The Great American Smokeout will be Nov. 15. The American Cancer Society challenges smokers to go one day without using tobacco products. For more information on quitting for good, call Preventive Medicine at 239-7323 or visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

ing will improve your chances of having a healthy baby. The people you live with, especially your children, will be healthier. You will have extra money to spend on things other than cigarettes.

Several key steps will help you quit and quit for good. You have the best chance of quitting if you use them together. The steps are: mentally prepare yourself, receive support, learn new skills and behaviors, and receive medications (optional).

The Preventive Medicine department at Irwin Army Com-

munity Hospital offers a four-week program. Based on the Freshstart program from the American Cancer Society, it offers small-group support, behavioral modification techniques and medication for withdrawal symptoms. The class meets for one hour. Call the Preventive Medicine Service to enroll.

Remember, if you can quit for a day, you can quit for a lifetime. Please contact Preventive Medicine Services at 239-7323 or visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) for more information.

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HOUSE FILL AD

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3 x 8"  
Black Only  
3 x 8 CMU

AMERICAN DREAM DEVELOPMENT  
3 x 8"  
Black Only  
3x6AmericanDream



Post/Marelock

### Morning kick

Theresa Alexander stirs up a Grasshopper – espresso, chocolate, peppermint and milk – at Trendy's Café in King Field House. The shop, which has been open for more than a month, operates from 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and serves breakfast and lunch sandwiches along with various coffee drinks, fruit smoothies and snacks. For more information on the shop, stop in or call 784-4031.

PRAIRIE BAND CASINO  
4 x 10"  
Black Only  
4x10, FULLCOLOR, P.Band, 10/12, ct

HOUSE FILL AD

BANK OF AMERICA- AFC  
6 x 10.5"  
Black Only  
6x10.5 FULL COLOR Bank of Amer



# Flag code dictates respect for nation's symbol

By Laura Stroda  
Staff writer

It's a daily ritual in front of Fort Riley's Building 500. The day begins with the firing of a cannon and sounding of reveille as the U.S. flag is hoisted in front of headquarters. At 5 p.m., a bugler sounds retreat and Soldiers lower the flag. Drivers passing by are required to stop their vehicles and Soldiers salute as the flag is lowered.

But civilians also are supposed to render honors during the daily retreat ceremony.

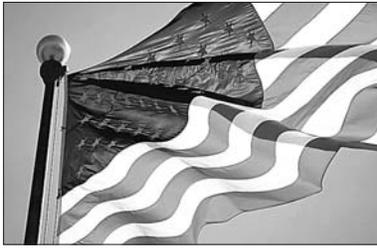
Sgt. 1st Class David Dean, G3 ceremonies, described a few simple actions that are appropriate to honor the flag.

"Pedestrians within earshot of the bugle call should stop and stand with their arms at their sides at the position of attention and face the flag. Civilians and military members in civilian clothes should place their right hand over their heart, while military members in uniform should render a salute throughout the ceremony," Dean said.

Those operating a vehicle should come to a stop, step out and render the same courtesy, as should passengers. Dean said in the case of large vehicles — such as busses or trucks — where all occupants are in uniform, the driver should remain seated while the passengers disembark and render a salute.

Jim Schroer of the Manhattan Veterans of Foreign Wars post has been teaching students proper flag etiquette for a number of years. He shows a video, teaches the proper Pledge of Allegiance and describes how students should act as a flag passes during a parade.

He said the lessons are typically aimed at fourth-grade students. "They're the ones at that age who aren't afraid to tug on



daddy's coattails and tell him what he should be doing as a flag passes," Schroer said.

Proper display of the flag on Fort Riley is governed by Army Regulation 840-10, *Heraldic Activities*. The U.S. Flag Code also lists guidelines for properly displaying the nation's colors. Dean described the union, white stars on a field of blue, as the honor point of the flag. The union of the flag and the flag itself, when in company with other flags, are always given the honor position, which is on the right.

When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff. When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, the flag

should be displayed in the same way, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.

Because the flag is a symbol of the nation and is given a position of honor, it should never be used as apparel, bedding or drapery. Bunting of blue, white and red, always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of a platform and for decoration in general.

Flags that are soiled, worn or tattered beyond repair should not be used, Dean said. Flags should be disposed of in an honorable manner, typically by burning. Schroer said the Manhattan American Legion conducts a flag-burning ceremony each year on Flag Day.

If an individual or group is displaying a flag wrong on Fort Riley, Dean said, they will be briefed on the proper display techniques.

"Any Soldier aware of customs, courtesy and traditions may make a correction (if they see a flag not properly displayed)," Dean said.

## Some history of the U.S. flag

1776 — Betsy Ross sews the first American flag.

1777 — Continental Congress resolves that the U.S. flag have 13 red and white stripes; that the union be 13 white stars in a blue field.

1814 — Francis Scott Key writes *The Star-Spangled Banner*. It becomes the national anthem in 1931.

1861 — After the South seceded, President Lincoln would not allow any stars to be removed from the flag.

1869 — The first flag is printed on a postage stamp.

1892 — Pledge of Allegiance, written by Francis Bellamy, is published in a magazine called *The Youth's Companion*.

1897 — State Flag Desecration Statutes are adopted. By 1932, all of the states have adopted such laws.

1907 — In Haller v. Nebraska, the Supreme Court holds that states have the authority to promulgate flag desecration laws. Halter involved a conviction of two businessmen selling Stars and Stripes beer with a representation of the U.S. flag affixed to the labels.

1909 — Robert Peary places the flag atop the North Pole.

1942 — President Roosevelt approves the Federal Flag Code, providing guidelines for the display and respect shown to the flag. The code does not prescribe any penalties. It functions simply as a guide for voluntary civilian compliance.

1943 — The Supreme Court holds that public school children could not be compelled to salute the U.S. flag.

1945 — The flag that flew over Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, is flown over the White House when the Japanese accepted surrender terms.

1949 — President Truman signs a bill making June 14 Flag Day.

1954 — By an act of Congress, the words "under God" are inserted into the Pledge of Allegiance.

1960 — The 50th star is added for Hawaii.

1963 — The flag is placed on top of Mount Everest.

1968 — Congress approves the first federal flag desecration law in the wake of the Central Park flag-burning incident in protest of the Vietnam War.

1969 — Neil Armstrong places a flag on the moon.

1972 — The Supreme Court holds that Massachusetts cannot prosecute a person for wearing a replica of the flag on the seat of his pants.

1974 — The Supreme Court holds that the state of Washington cannot convict a person for attaching tape in the form of a peace sign to a flag. The defendant attached the tape to a flag and draped it outside his window to protest the invasion of Cambodia and the Kent State killings.

1970-1980 — Some 20 states narrow the scope of their flag desecration laws in an effort to conform to perceived restrictions.

1989 — The Supreme Court upheld the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals finding that a law making it a crime to "desecrate" or otherwise "mistreat" the flag in a way the "actor knows will seriously offend one or more persons" was unconstitutional as applied.

1990 — Passage of the Flag Protection Act results in a number of flag-burning incidents protesting the law. Congress rejects an amendment specifying that "the Congress and the States have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." The amendment fails to muster the necessary two-thirds Congressional majorities.

1995 — The Flag Desecration Constitutional Amendment is narrowly defeated in the Senate.

2004 — The Supreme Court declines to hear a case challenging "One country under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. "While the court does not address the merits of the case, it is clear that the Pledge of Allegiance and the words 'under God' can continue to be recited by students across America," said Jay Sekulow, chief counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice.

This article first appeared in the June 29 issue of the Fort Benning, Ga., Bayonet

## U.S. Flag Code

- The flag should not be displayed on a float in a parade except from a staff.
- The flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides or back of a vehicle or of a railroad train or a boat. When the flag is displayed on a motorcar, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right tender. The flag, when it is displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the right (the flag's own right) and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.
- When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff. When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.
- When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, the flag should be displayed in the same way, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.
- When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.
- When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker or to the right of the audience.
- The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water or merchandise.
- The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally but always aloft and free.
- The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery. It should never be fastened, drawn back, nor run in folds but always allowed to fall free. Bunting of blue, white and red, always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of the platform and for decoration in general.
- The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way.
- The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
- The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing of any nature.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.
- The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.
- No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
- The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.
- During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all present except those in uniform should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Those present in uniform should render the military salute. When not in uniform, men should render their heads with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Aliens should stand at attention. The salute to the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.



Soldiers lower the flag during a retreat ceremony at Ware Parade Field.

Post file photo

## Folds of the flag

- The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life
- The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.
- The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks and who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.
- The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.
- The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."
- The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
- The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.
- The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.
- The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood, for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.
- The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first born.
- The eleventh fold, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

Source: www.legion.org



### Community news briefly

#### Free child care offered on post

Child and Youth Services and School Age Services will offer free child care from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the following dates for the Families of deployed Soldiers and Soldiers who have returned from deployment within three months: Nov. 3 and 17, Dec. 1 and 15.

Participants must register by calling 239-4744 or 239-9935 by noon on the Thursday prior to the free child care. The free child care is subject to cancellation based on minimum reservation requirements.

#### Library to host spooky tales

Families are invited to join the Fort Riley Post Library for a ghost of a good time from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 30.

Ghost stories will be read at the library, Building 5306, and goodie bags will be given out to all children who come in costume.

For more information please call the library at 239-5305.

#### MWR to host masquerade ball

Riley's Conference Center is inviting all Ghosts and Goblins to the first ever Masquerade Ball from 8 p.m. to midnight Oct. 27.

Tickets are on sale now for \$5 or can be purchased for \$7 at the door. Appetizers will be served throughout the evening and a cash bar will be available.

Prizes will be awarded for the most creative, best couple, scariest and funniest costumes.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 784-1000.

#### EFMP to offer assessments

The Exceptional Family Member Program will be hosting several Ages and Stages Assessments, vision and hearing. An Ages and Stages Assessment increases parents' involvement in their children's social-emotional health and provides early referral for social-emotional services when necessary. Benefits of the assessments include: an increase in understanding among Families, care providers and communities regarding the

importance of nurturing, social-emotional development in children.

The next upcoming scheduled assessments will be Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

The assessments are open to all military Families who have children ages birth to kindergarten. The assessments will be conducted at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264. For more information or to RSVP contact 239-9435 and ask for EFMP or NPSP or contact Geary County Infant Toddler Services at (785) 762-7859.

#### Hallelujah Night slated at chapel

The Morris Hill Gospel Service will host Hallelujah Night from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 31.

Hallelujah Night is a fall festival and alternative to trick or treating for the whole Family.

The theme for the night will be "Focus on the Family Fun Night." There will be games and prizes, free food and drinks, and praise dancing at the beginning of the program.

For more information, call Morris Hill Chapel at 239-4685 or Karen at 717-9288.

# ISO reminds everyone to stay safe for holidays

By Marc J. Greene  
*Installation Safety Office*

Traditionally, alcohol has been a big part of holiday celebrations, but today we know there is danger involved in providing "open bars" to any and everyone. The percentage of alcohol- and drug-related traffic incidents increase dramatically, during the holiday season.

#### Did you know?

- Approximately 40 percent of all traffic fatalities are alcohol-related.
- Two out of every five Americans will probably find themselves in an alcohol-related crash.
- If the trend of drinking and driving continues, 40 percent of Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash sometime in their lives.
- According to the National Safety Council, every 33 minutes

someone dies in an alcohol-related crash.

- Every two minutes someone is injured.
- All states have a 21-year-old drinking age law.
- Driving under the influence of medication? DUI laws not only apply to alcohol, they also apply to prescription and over-the-counter medications. Read the label and talk with the pharmacist before you buy medication. Ask for non-drowsy sinus and allergy medication.

No matter the season, drinking and driving kills. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the total number of people killed across the U.S. in 2006 was 17,602. Also the number of motorcycle riders killed in alcohol-related crashes increased by 8 percent from 2005. Don't become a statistic! Drinking

impairs your ability to identify hazards and assess risks. If you plan on drinking, then plan on having a designated driver who will not consume any alcoholic beverages. It is crucial for you to make the right choice and mitigate the risk before you consume even one alcoholic beverage.

#### Don't believe the Myths:

- I don't have far to go.
  - I don't feel any effects.
  - I'm more alert after a few drinks.
  - Coffee will sober me up. Coffee cannot sober up someone who has had too much to drink; only time can do that. It takes one hour to metabolize one drink.
  - I just need some fresh air.
  - I'll drive slowly and carefully.
  - I've only been drinking beer.
- Enjoy the Holidays ... Don't Drink & Drive*

HOUSE FILL AD

DAILY UNION  
6 x 14.5"  
Black Only  
4036 Post Service Directory



## K-State's Beach museum to reopen with new exhibits

By Anna Staatz  
Staff writer

After more than a month of closed doors, the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art will reopen Oct. 21 with three new exhibits and a full day of activities for everyone.

The Beach Museum of Art opened in October 1996, on the edge of the Kansas State University campus in Manhattan.

Martha Scott, business and marketing manager for the museum, said that within five years of opening, directors were discussing an expansion. The museum started with 1,500 pieces of art and currently has more than 6,000 pieces, Scott said. The expansion has given the museum two new indoor galleries and an outdoor sculpture gallery.

A special day of activities,

built around the theme Arts Up! will commemorate the reopening of the museum on Oct. 21.

The day will kick off at 11 a.m. with museum tours and music by K-State students. The afternoon will feature family-friendly activities from 2 to 4 p.m., such as a magician, balloon artists and face painting. From 5 to 7 p.m. there will be a tailgate party with free hamburgers and hot dogs and an appearance by the K-State band.

Three new exhibits, in addition to the museum's regular pieces, will be on display. The first new exhibit is Paths to the Press: Printmaking and American Women Artists, 1910-1960. The exhibit features more than 80 artists who influenced American art and education.

"What they have in common is their collective contribution to American printmaking, a contri-

bution that is substantial but has never been fully appreciated," said Elizabeth Seaton, museum curator.

The second exhibit is Let Me Show You the World: The Seven Drawings of China Marks. Marks, a former sculptor, uses an industrial sewing machine to create art collages on fabric.

K-State professor, Elliott Pujol's Copper Truck exhibit also will be on display. The 1970s model Dodge pickup is covered with copper, riveted on after the truck didn't pass inspection in Philadelphia before Pujol came to K-State.

One of the best things about the expansion, Scott said, is it allows the museum to host traveling exhibits in addition to the regular collection.

For more information about the museum, call (785) 532-7718.

## Train ride continued from page 15

didn't take long for passengers to take in their surroundings.

Emily Broden and her son, Thomas, 3, captured the moment by taking pictures of what they saw. One-year-old Andrew Payne was more excited about watching the people sitting behind him.

Looking intently out of the train's window, Dominique Valentino, 3, was amazed by a small pond she saw along the way. Other children on the train excitedly pointed out buffaloes, horses and "chocolate milk cows" grazing in nearby pastures.

The intent of the train ride, however, was not just to view the scenery but also to educate passengers about train safety.

Patrick Campbell, an employee

with the Union Pacific Railroad based in Herington, Kan., was on hand to explain Operation Life Saver to the passengers.

The three Es of Operation Life Saver are education, engineering and enforcement.

A soda can weighs 12 ounces and a train weighs 12 million pounds, Campbell said. A train hitting a car is equivalent to a car hitting a soda can. Because of a train's weight, he explained, it is harder for a train to stop for a vehicle.

"A passenger car at 55 mph takes 200 feet to stop," Campbell said. "A train takes over a mile to stop."

While discussing what to do when approaching a railroad

crossing, Campbell told passengers about the three Ls of Operation Life Saver — look, listen and live.

"Winter is coming up and people have their radios, defrosters and stuff like that on. Take the time to roll down your windows and look and listen for a train," he advised.

Campbell also offered tips to children, reminding them never to throw objects at a train because the objects can fly back at them; always walk their bicycles across the tracks, so the wheels of the bicycle don't get stuck in the tracks; and not to stand too close to railroad tracks.

## ITR continued from page 15

### Destinations

For extended vacations and trips, ITR acts as a travel agent for DoD patrons, coordinating airfare, hotel stays and cruises without the additional fees charged by most retail travel agencies.

Guests can come to ITR to talk with someone about possibilities for where they'd like to travel, Mayes said. Once they make a decision, they can make payments over a period of time instead of paying the full amount up front. The payment option requires a deposit for the initial reservation and a final payment about two and a half months before travel dates. Mayes said she recommended making reservations in plenty of time, but that ITR has coordinated travel arrangements in a few days.

"We're used to working with Soldiers and their schedule changes all the time, so we are very used to accommodating

### Contacting ITR

For more information on these discounts and others, contact Information, Ticketing and Registration.

Where: Building 6918, near the Post Exchange

Phone: 239-5614 and 239-4415

Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

that," Mayes said.

ITR can coordinate cruises or destination vacations, such as trips to the Disneyland Resort. With winter approaching, ski packages are becoming a higher priority. Mayes said ITR can coordinate trips to several Colorado ski resorts as well as the closer Snow Creek ski area in Weston, Mo. Mayes said to check with ITR for special military discount days at Snow Creek.

### Other Services

DoD patrons also can make use

of the Armed Forces Vacation Club. Condominium reservations for two to six people can be made at a variety of destinations. A week's stay is \$329. For more information on AFVC, visit [www.afvclub.com](http://www.afvclub.com). If you choose to make reservations with AFVC, call ITR for an installation number.

ITR also offers local movie tickets at about \$2 less than the regular cost. Mayes said this service was particularly useful for Family readiness group or unit-wide recreational activities.



Post/Staatz

## Halloween haunting

Sgt. Ajita Curry, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers president, works to set up BOSS' annual Haunted House. The Haunted House will be open Oct. 27, 28, 30 and 31 at Marshall Army Air Field in Building 727B. Tickets are \$4, and the screams begin every night at 7pm. Not recommended for small children. For more information call 239-8147, if you dare!

DAILY UNION  
3 x 10 1/2"  
Black Only  
3x11 DU Holiday Baking Recipe

FURNITURE WAREHOUSE  
3 x 10 1/2"  
Black Only  
3x10.5FullColor10/25FWHouse

# AFAP continued from page 15

on how competitive it can be when recruiting qualified employees and a shortage of medical personnel prolongs the wait for medical care. The recommendations were to allow more flexibility in the hiring process, secure more funding to aid in competing with other employers and extend the obligation period for military doctors.

## Base Operations (Housing and Employment)

Base operations representatives listed gate congestion during peak hours, an unacceptable housing wait list policy and an inadequate drainage system on McClellan Loop as their top issues.

The representatives said there was high traffic through Ogden, Trooper and Estes Gates in the early morning and at Trooper Gate during lunch time. Speakers said the wait to get through the gate is often excessive at these times and compromised Soldier readiness, mission accomplishment and Family morale. The recommendations were to authorize more personnel to work at the gates during peak hours, develop directional routing options, create more lanes and require a designated lane for visitors that does not interfere with other lanes of traffic. The second issue presented by base operations was the housing wait list policy. Speakers said incoming personnel with orders are prohibited from securing a position on the wait list since current policy requires active duty members to sign out of the previous post before being placed on the list. The recommendation was to change the policy to allow incoming personnel with orders to be placed on the list, even if they had not signed out from the last duty station.

The final issue was inadequate

drainage from rainfall on McClellan Loop resulting in interior and exterior flooding. The recommendation was to create an adequate drainage system before June 2008.

## Consumer Services (AAFES, ITR, Commissary, DMWR)

The first issue listed by consumer services as needing attention was inadequacies at the Commissary. The group listed expired or nearly expired food, long lines and bare shelves as problem points. The recommendations were to streamline the hiring process to accommodate the high turnover rate at the Commissary and make it easier to fill open positions in a timely manner and to revise contracting with vendors to improve the restocking rotation.

The second issue was a need to improve community information distribution. Presenters said Army Community Service should be more involved in the in-processing of Soldiers and Families and provide information earlier in the permanent change of station process. Recommendations were to provide welcome packets at the Housing Services Office, Finance, In-processing and Child and Youth Services; acquire a roster of Soldiers with orders for Fort Riley and send packets to them before they arrived and for GI to provide ACS with more contact information for the incoming service members.

The third issue was to allow post privileges such as exchange and commissary shopping and information, ticketing and registration services for Vietnam War veterans. Speakers said veterans serving in Vietnam fought in an unpopular war, were treated with disrespect upon their return and deserved to be granted special privileges.

## Community Affairs (CYS, ACS, ARC, Chapels)

The community affairs group listed safe drop-off zones for students around post schools as its number one concern. Speakers said traffic congestion near the schools caused a safety issue for drivers and students during arrival and dismissal times. The recommendation was to create a safe area for student pick up and drop off at schools.

The second issue was Women, Infants and Children guidelines for military Families. Presenters said determining if a Family qualified for WIC should be based solely on a Soldier's base pay, since the basic allowance for subsistence is an entitlement of the Soldier and not the Family, and adding other entitlements that were not received on a continuous basis disqualified Families who needed additional assistance. The recommendation was to exclude all entitlements and consider only base pay for Families seeking WIC assistance.

Community affairs representatives listed permanent school enrollment for military children as the third issue. Representatives said children in Families waiting for housing should be allowed to enroll in post schools immediately and be authorized to remain in that school during the entire tour at Fort Riley in order to minimize unnecessary transfers and provide stability.

## Middle School

Representatives for Fort Riley Middle School named the lack of activity facilities in housing areas as a topic of concern. Activities such as bowling, mini golf, movies and arcades are not within

reasonable walking distance of housing areas, the group said. The recommendation was to provide at least one of the named activities in each housing area.

The second issue presented by the middle school group was a rivalry between the Junction City and Fort Riley Middle Schools due to separate social and sporting events to the extent of causing fear in freshmen entering Junction City High School. The recommendations were to initiate combined dances, field trips and club meetings, and develop group assignments between the two schools.

The third issue was a conflict in the times when students are out of school and the Soldiers have training holidays. The recommendation was to coordinate time off given to Soldiers with school holidays and staff developments in order to allow Families to spend more time together.

## High School

The high school group listed its first issue as the lack of availability of the Teen Center during teacher in-service days and recommended the center be open during in-service days. The second issue was forming a deployment group for teens to assist them in dealing with stress and the additional responsibilities in their Families during deployments. The recommendations were to create a regulation allowing the group and to establish an installation-based teen support group.

The final teen issue was to develop a military sponsored driver's education course for Family members to accommodate drivers who missed taking a course due to moves and deployments.

Classified Raster  
2 x 21.25"  
Black Only

# Picerné continued from page 15

One of the more challenging renovation projects involves the 253 historic homes on Main Post. "The historic homes do present a few challenges," Beaugard said. "Because there are so many different floor plans, the design process for a renovation of a historic home has been very time consuming."

"During 2008 our design team will continue to develop a renovation plan for all the styles of historic homes. By having the renovation plans done in advance we can more quickly renovate a historic home once it becomes available."

One of the more noticeable projects underway on Main Post involves the improvement of 138 historic garages. This \$275,000 project will be completed by the end of the year. The garages are receiving interior lighting, walls and doors, which improve security and privacy.

Anyone who has been to the Commissary or has used Trooper Gate in the past six months has seen some of the most visible changes for Fort Riley housing. The Forsyth area is the site of Picerné Military Housing's new construction.

Before any construction could begin, the development team at Picerné had to lay the ground work. The Forsyth development, which was formally initiated at the April 2007 groundbreaking ceremony, started earthwork and installation of new underground water, electric, sanitary, storm drainage facilities and roadways, for the first 246 junior non-commissioned officer homes.

"The development team met the delivery schedule for developed lots," said Jim Swarts, director of development. "The importance of delivering developed lots on time was critical to allowing the home construction team to start vertical construction on time."

Swarts acknowledged Forsyth, as with any land development project, had its challenges.

"The development team worked with a number of consultants throughout the project, to resolve such issues as soil conditions, storm drainage ponds to minimize drainage impacts on the residential development and relocation of existing utilities," Swarts said.

Overall, the Forsyth property has been a very satisfying tract to develop residential homes. The property provides uncomplicated and workable soils, manageable



*Picerné photo*  
**Construction is in full swing in the Forsyth neighborhood. Weather permitting, Picerné can deliver a block of homes, from development to finished product, in four to six months. These homes are located on Conestoga Road.**

storm drainage courses and the ability to optimize sanitary sewer systems, due to the gentle sloping of the land, Swarts said.

The 55 new homes currently under construction in the Forsyth area will be available for occupancy in early 2008. Picerné will continue to deliver new homes to Families throughout their 10 year initial development phase.

According to Beaugard, as many as 325 new homes will be delivered per year at the peak of production. Picerné has accepted a number of new homes this year that were constructed by another builder under a previously awarded military construction contract by the Army Corps of Engineers. These homes increased the available on-post housing from 3,052 homes to 3,114, are located in Ellis Heights and Veterans Place, and were the last homes built under military construction for Fort Riley, Beaugard said.

Senior NCOs and field-grade officers were relocated into these new homes in order to create areas in which renovations could begin. This philosophy of relocating Families who are in the path of renovation or demolition will continue as Picerné continues to build and renovate.

Picerné has utilized a number

of area sub-contractors to help with development, construction and renovations. Recently, Picerné added a Small Business Administrator to their staff so more local and small business vendors could be used.

"We have developed some great relationships with area contractors," Beaugard said. "This has gone better than we could have dreamed. We have a number of good, qualified workers who give us the best value and help us to achieve success."

In addition to the boost for local contractors, Picerné has provided many jobs for the area. Currently, 100 people work directly for Picerné at Fort Riley. "While there have been a good number of changes already, Fort Riley Families still have a lot to look forward to in the coming year."

In just a few weeks Picerné will host a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house to showcase the medium renovations in Colyer Manor. Historic renovations will ramp up, as will renovations in other neighborhoods. In addition to the new homes in Forsyth, construction of the first Neighborhood Center at Fort Riley will begin in 2008.

While a number of units are

slated for demolition, this part of the initial development plan does not begin until 2010. This allows enough time to create "swing" housing for those currently on post. Approximately 1,700 old units will be demolished during this phase.

The long term Family housing plan for Fort Riley authorizes Picerné to manage just more than 3,500 on-post homes.

"I think things are going very well here," Beaugard said. "We have been able to noticeably improve the quality of the housing and the community for our Families. We are looking forward to showing the community even more progress in the next year."

"We are always looking for ways to improve though. There's always more to do," he added. "There has been speculation from neighboring communities that Picerné has plans to build and manage properties off post."

"We've heard this false rumor from several people," Beaugard said. "At this time we are focused solely on developing and delivering quality housing to Families who live on post. We want to focus on doing what we do best, providing excellent customer service and on-post housing."





CLASSIFIED

