

## COMMUNITY CORNER

# Enjoy variety of hunting activities, opportunities Fort Riley has to offer

By Col. Kevin Brown  
GARRISON COMMANDER

When asked what they like best about Fort Riley, many Soldiers, Family members and civilian employees will mention the beautiful scenery and outdoor recreation opportunities first and foremost.

Most of us spend our days driving to the child development centers or Post Exchange, among the buildings on historic Main Post and through the troop areas on Custer Hill. However, just to our north, across Vinton School Road is the rest of Fort Riley's more than 100,000 acres that are home to countless game species, beautiful lakes and streams, rolling hills and the only free-ranging elk herd in Kansas. While these areas may be familiar to our Soldiers who train there, did you know they also are available for outdoor recreation?

We're proud of Fort Riley's hunting, fishing and hiking opportunities because getting in touch with nature also is a good way to get in touch with ourselves and our Families. Teaching your children how to hunt or even just taking a hike and appreciating nature together can bring us all closer together.

Whether you are an experienced



Col. Brown

is dedicated to preserving our ranges for training and recreation and helping all get the most of it.

Many outdoor enthusiasts on post already know several fall hunting seasons are in full swing. Those new to Fort Riley who are thinking about outdoor recreation as a leisure opportunity, will be glad to know Kansas is well known for its variety of game species and boasts some of the best hunting and outdoor recreation prospects in the Army.

The popularity of deer hunting in recent years has far surpassed any other form of hunting on Fort Riley for good reason. A variety of seasons for deer hunting include archery, muzzle-loader and centerfire rifles, and there is an abundance of deer, including

trophy-quality bucks. Despite increased demand, the quality deer management initiatives employed by the Environmental Division and the fort's hunters have further increased the overall quality of the herd.

These initiatives, along with specific safety regulations, are included in the Environmental Division's annual deer hunting fact sheet. Fact sheets are available on the Fort Riley Web site under "Recreation." You also may pick one up at the Environmental Division Office, Building 404 Holbrook Ave.

One of the most unique hunting opportunities on post requires a little forethought before the season. This year, 10 active duty Soldiers were lucky enough to receive one of 23 elk tags issued in 2009. Those hunters will be out on the ranges between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31 but had to apply for their tags this summer. Active duty Soldiers have an advantage in being drawn for these tags, so mark your calendars for June 2010 to get into next year's pool. This truly is a special opportunity for our hunters.

Fort Riley also is the place to be if you are a turkey hunter. Both the Rio Grande and Eastern sub-species are plentiful on the installation and can be found just about anywhere on post.

Turkey season runs throughout the fall and winter ending Jan. 31. Hunters may purchase up to four turkey tags.

Upland game hunters have a variety of choices including one very unique species - the greater prairie chicken. Bobwhite quail can be found in good numbers on post and ring-necked pheasant are present too. Rabbits and squirrels likewise can be found in abundance and both have a long season for hunting. In fact, rabbit season is open year-round and squirrel season runs from June 1 to Feb. 28.

To learn more about hunting or fishing on Fort Riley, visit the Environmental Division to learn more. Another opportunity to get involved with the great outdoors at Fort Riley is through the Fort Riley Outdoorsmen Group. FROG members are Soldiers, civilian employees, Family members and community members who care about outdoor recreation and preserving our resources so we can continue to enjoy them into the future.

A great opportunity in November is the FROG youth hunt. As I mentioned before, many of the Soldiers stationed on post are avid outdoorsmen. When they are deployed during hunting season, they may not have the chance to share

this with their children. This is where the youth hunt comes in. Experienced hunters will be paired up with youth and teach them more about the sport. And, it's not only for future hunter's whose parents are deployed. Any youth, age 9 to 16 years old, who are first-time hunters, disabled or have a deployed sponsor are invited.

A limited number of firearms, shells and hunter orange will be available, but youth are encouraged to bring their own if they can. No hunting experience is needed. Guides will mentor youths by teaching safety and ethics and will assist in cleaning deer at the end of the hunt. For more information, or to sign up, visit the Environmental Office, Building 404, or e-mail FROG at [fortrileyoutdoorsmngroup@fortrileyoutdoorsmngroup.com](mailto:fortrileyoutdoorsmngroup@fortrileyoutdoorsmngroup.com) or [mark.dombrowski@us.army.mil](mailto:mark.dombrowski@us.army.mil).

While hunting is one of the most popular outdoor pastimes on Fort Riley, there are many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors on Fort Riley without a firearm or bow. The fall season brings a change of color to the Flint Hills along with an opportunity to capture some excellent still photos of this dynamic landscape. Horseback riding, bicycling and hiking are just a few more oppor-

unities to enjoy the outdoors in the fall. Visit Outdoor Recreation, Building 9011 Rifle Range Road, online at [www.rileymw.com](http://www.rileymw.com) or call 785-239-2363 to find out more about renting bikes for the weekend or camping equipment. Outdoor Rec also offers numerous opportunities to enjoy the outdoors such as horseback riding and canoe trips.

While I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy everything Fort Riley has to offer before the snow flies - or after, if you're a cold weather fan - I would like to add one reminder. All of the outdoor activities on the ranges co-exist with the military mission. We want you to enjoy the great outdoors, but do it safely and within Fort Riley and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations.

Remember the Environmental Division staff is available to get you started and make sure you know the regs. If you are a new hunter, let them connect you with a mentor. If your son or daughter is interested in hunting, get involved with FROG's youth hunt. Opportunities abound, let's get out and enjoy them.

If you would like to comment on this article or suggest a topic for a future Community Corner, e-mail [rile.post.news@com.usa.army.mil](mailto:rile.post.news@com.usa.army.mil).

Maj. John Eldridge, with the 10th ASOS, presents Junction City High School student Roschwista Quiroz, with a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Air Force, Oct. 2 at JCHS.

Ashley Strehle  
POST



## Students awarded for suicide-prevention poems

By Ashley Strehle  
STAFF WRITER

Fort Riley's Suicide Prevention Program managers ended September's Suicide Prevention Month with an event Sept. 29 at Junction City High School: an awards ceremony for the winners of the program's suicide prevention poetry contest.

Three JCHS students received prizes for their entries in the contest. The first through third place winners received certificates of appreciation from the U.S. Air Force.

The certificates were presented by Air Force Maj. John Eldridge, of the 10th Air Support Operations Squadron. He presented the awards on behalf of Air Force Lt. Col. Roy Faru who was unable to attend.

This was the first time a suicide prevention poetry contest was held with JCHS.

Hedi Osterle, Suicide Prevention

Program manager with the Army Substance Abuse Program said ASAP included this contest in Suicide Prevention Month activities so it could reach more people.

"We wanted to incorporate as many people as we could," she said. "We wanted to reach out to the community because suicide affects not just Fort Riley, but it has a rippling effect to the community."

They incorporated high school students specifically, because this age group has a high rate of suicide. Osterle said they wanted to reach out to these individuals and get them involved with suicide prevention.

The theme of the poetry contest was "Have the courage to seek help: Who does suicide affect?"

Students' poems were judged on creativity, how well they incorporated the theme, and the level of effort they appeared to put into their work.

The first place winner, Roschwista

Quiroz, won an iPod Nano. Second place winner, Caleb Plumb, won a portable DVD player and the third place winner, Chris Shoemaker, won a digital camera.

During her opening remarks at the awards ceremony, Osterle told the high school students that "when you get more people involved, more change happens, more people are aware, more people are there to help."

She told the students another poetry contest likely would occur next year, and hopefully more JCHS students will participate.

As far as this year's contest, Osterle said it went well.

"There were a lot of teachers that we worked with that were really supportive and facilitated it in a short amount of time," she said.

For more information on the suicide prevention poetry contest or suicide prevention programs in general, call 785-239-1012.

## Domestic Violence Prevention month begins

By Ashley Strehle  
STAFF WRITER

October is Domestic Violence Prevention Month, and the month-long observance officially began Oct. 2 on Domestic Violence Awareness Day.

A proclamation signing at 10:30 a.m. at Riley's Conference Center during the postwide Family Readiness Group's muster marked the beginning of the observance.

The proclamation, which was signed by Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, declares that the Department of Defense has zero tolerance for family violence.

The proclamation states the Army leadership is committed to taking care if its people and domestic abuse undermines that commitment. It also states that the Army wants to emphasize prevention and assure that victims of domestic abuse are properly protected.

"It's what I would call a pact," said Carolyn Tolliver-Lee, Family Advocacy Program specialist. "We agree that this exists, and we're committed to make sure Soldiers and Families are keeping safe."

This Armywide campaign has been done at Fort Riley in the past.

"It's a great way to begin our annual campaign and bring awareness to both the civilian and military communities," Tolliver-Lee said.

The slogan for this year's campaign is "Make the right choice - Act to prevent domestic violence."

People are encouraged to wear purple, the color associated with domestic violence prevention, throughout the month. Purple was chosen to represent the pain and bruises of domestic vio-



Ashley Strehle | POST  
Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, Fort Riley and 1st Inf. Div. commanding general, signs the Domestic Violence Prevention Proclamation Friday, Oct. 2 at Riley's Conference Center.

lence victims. Purple ribbon pins were distributed at the muster along with a copy of the proclamation. A table with information and pamphlets also was available at the event.

At the meeting, Tolliver-Lee spoke about month-long observance and how people on post can prevent domestic violence.

"What are you willing to do, as a community, everyone sitting here? What are you willing to do to ensure that your neighbors or friends are safe in their home?" she said.

She encouraged people to attend a live talk show called "Make the right Choice: Become a better you" sponsored by the Family Advocacy Program.

The live talk show will be from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17 in Barlow Theater.

People who attend the event will learn the military definition for domestic violence, why some couples experi-

ence domestic violence and others do not and what happens to children who grow up in homes with domestic violence.

Tolliver-Lee also said people who attend the talk show will learn how to respond to domestic violence as a resident of the Fort Riley community.

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power then we will have peace. Let us, as a community, strive to have peace at home as well as abroad," she said.

She said signing the proclamation involves making a commitment "to ensure the Families on this installation are safe and that we care enough to be involved."

For more information on Domestic Violence Prevention Month or the services offered by the Family Advocacy Program call 785-239-9435. The Family Advocacy Program is located in ACS, Building 7264 Normandy Drive on Custer Hill.