

COMMUNITY CORNER

Information technology supports Army Soldiers, Families, civilians

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

Our Soldiers, civilians, and family members today are connecting and communicating in ways that were only possible through the visionary writings of the best science fiction authors of the early 20th and 21st centuries. As technology increasingly becomes "smaller, cheaper, faster" Fort Riley is determined to keep pace.

Today, at a minimum, you only need to have a connection to your cell phone provider to quickly send a snippet of a message, a picture or video to another person on the other side of the world. You can send and receive status updates via the many social networking sites and have them received and answered in seconds.

It is evident, and as of my writing, that more than 75 percent of Army community prefers to receive information and communicate via the Internet. Fort Riley recognizes this importance to its Army community and has since Feb. 26 implemented controlled capabilities of access to YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites and technologies via the official network for the purpose of allowing Soldiers to "tell the Army story" and to facilitate the dissemination of strategic, unclassified information. Connectivity to the Internet, social network technologies and other activities via the Fort Riley network is governed by Defense Department and other regulations.

Fort Riley has leveraged cell and smart phone technology with the addition of the Fort Riley self-service AtHoc messaging system. Soldiers, civilians,

and family members can "opt-in" to receive various types of alerts (adverse weather, force protection, vigilant civilian and many other type of alerts) via text message and/or e-mail. In addition to the AtHoc technologies Fort Riley has leveraged its Internet technologies with the Fort Riley website which provides a "one-stop shop" with links and information not only important to the Fort Riley community, Soldier and Family readiness but also to the Army as a whole.

Other new and powerful technologies are on the horizon in my continuing effort to provide our community with timely and accurate information. The importance of how we communicate in today's world has prompted me to make information technology and a subcomponent of IT, information assurance security, a major focal area in my commitment to service, assist and protect our Army community and the Central Flint Hills Region. To greatly enhance how we are delivering on our promises of the Army Family and Community Covenants, Installation Management Command Commander Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch is co-leading the Services and Infrastructure Core Enterprise, which represents 15 commands, organizations and staff offices, and has been formed to solve technology challenges that face the Army as a whole. One of the SICE missions is to standardize and modernize IT services across Army installations, resulting in the overall



Col. Brown

delivery, deployment, training and continuity of operations.

We all have a strong commitment towards the two most important components of IT—telecommunications and information assurance. Telecommunications is that component of IT that ties our Families with their Soldiers via video teleconferences when the Soldier is deployed. The vast majority of our Families and Soldiers use telecommunications to send even the simplest messages like "good morning" to friends and Family. Information assurance is the measures that are in place to protect this vital communication and telecommunication link. IA reduces the risk and helps protect against the very nimble and provocative foe of IT (hacking, malicious code, etc.). IA enables Families, Soldiers, and civilians to communicate across the Internet in a fashion that offers a more secure environment than one would find on an "open Internet" connection.

The omnipresent challenge, the daily growth and expansion of IT handheld devices has made science fiction into science fact, opening up communication channels only dreamt of not even a decade ago.

As your garrison commander, I am dedicated and embrace these new and ever-emerging technologies. I am excited to see how the future technological innovations support our Soldiers, their Families and the Fort Riley community. You can rest assured we are fully committed to keeping "Lock Step" with these and newly emerging IT efforts.

To comment on this article or suggest a topic for Community Corner, e-mail rlc.post.news@perc.com.us.army.mil.

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the recall notice.

The only medications affecting Irwin Army Community Hospital's pharmacy were the Children's Tylenol Suspension and Tylenol Infant Drops. IACH pharmacy has removed all of these products from its shelves, said Maj. Veronica Hager, pharmacy officer in

charge.

The pharmacy also has ordered generic substitutions for the products.

Patients who are concerned about whether their product falls into this category, can call the pharmacy for clarification at 785-239-PHAR (7427) and press four for pharmacy personnel or visit www.mcnellproductrecall.com/page/jhtml?id=/include/new_recall.inc.

These products should not

cause harm to the patients, but we do recommend discarding any of the medications patients may already have at home, Hager said.

Patients who received a recalled product from the pharmacy previously can bring it to the pharmacy for a replacement.

"If at any time they are concerned about any medication they can call the pharmacy and we will be glad to help," Hager said.

ACS helps spouses celebrate annual appreciation holiday

By Deikaya Greer
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The Employment Readiness Program, Relocation Readiness Program and Army Community Service honored the spouses of Fort Riley at the Commissary May 7.

Spouses and Families were greeted by Riley Bear as they entered. They also were presented with a carnation and piece of cake.

"We were looking for an opportunity to show our appreciation to the spouses of Fort Riley," said Teresa Johnson, ERP program manager. "Often times they are overlooked when in reality they are the ones that do a great deal of work."

Relocation Readiness held a drawing for a gift basket filled with items helpful in the process of a permanent change of station move.

ERP gave away smaller items like, reusable shopping



Deikaya Greer | POST Teresa Johnson, ERP program manager, talks to a spouse about ACS programs during Military Spouse Appreciation Day at the Commissary May 7.

bags, picture frames and desk clocks. They also passed out literature about the various services offered at ACS. ERP also gave away two floral baskets to those who entered a drawing.

"This is wonderful, especially since most Soldiers are deployed," said Derina Wil-

liams, Housing Services manager. "This is very uplifting and encouraging."

In addition to the sweets and goodies given out, the spouses were presented with two different types of coins.

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Fort Riley spouse writes book to help military children cope

By Shandi Dix
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Raising two children is hard enough, but doing it while a husband is gone on his third deployment is even more challenging.

Melissa Seligman keeps herself busy with many projects while her husband Lt. David Seligman has been serving the country since August with the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

The couple and their 6-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son moved to Fort Riley about a year and a half

ago.

Seligman wanted to make sure her Family was healthy during the current deployment so she and the couple's daughter began counseling about eight months ago.

"My husband has been gone for 80 percent of my children's lives and multiple deployments start to take a toll," Seligman said. "So I wanted to make sure that we were all healthy, and about five months ago they were starting to talk to me about my daughter having depression."

Doctors mentioned starting her daughter on medication for the depression and that worried Seligman. She

wanted to do everything she could to help her daughter, so in December 2009 she began working on a children's book.

"I thought it might be a way for her to start talking because you do it through art or through writing as opposed to having to sit across from a grown up and saying, 'I'm really angry at my dad,'" Seligman said.

While David was home for mid-tour leave he sat down with their daughter and created her book.

The book, "A Heart Apart," became a bonding mechanism for David and his daughter.

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