

COMMUNITY CORNER

Action needs to be taken to increase number of POV fatality-free days

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

You might have noticed the tally on the front page of the newspaper or the numbers on the road signs leaving post that track the number of days Fort Riley has gone without a Soldier being killed in a privately owned vehicle accident.

That number hit 500. Then, on the 501st day we lost one of our Soldiers in a car accident.

What actions can you take to help us get back up to 500 days and beyond?

Reaching 500 days was a great accomplishment. Yes, part of it was probably luck. However, another big part of remaining accident-free involves leader engagement. Know what your Soldiers and

civilian employees are up to. As a leader you don't need to know the play-by-play details about what your Soldiers and employees did last weekend, but you should know who rides a motorcycle. Who likes to travel or participate in high-risk activities? Is there anyone in your organization who spends the weekends on their boat?

These are all activities that involve risk. Help draw attention to these risks and the other risks associated with summer. This week, the Garrison Safety Office held its annual Motor Vehicle Safety Campaign which focused on



Col. Brown

POV safety including driver distractions, impaired driving, drunk driving, aggressive driving, motorcycle safety, driver education, buckling up and drowsy driving.

The Fort Riley 101 Days of the Memorial Day weekend, and end Sept. 6, just after the Labor Day weekend.

Throughout this campaign, the Garrison Safety Office will provide training to help mitigate risks and provide materials for unit and organization safety officers.

Another resource for safety materials is the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center which has posters and information available on its website, <https://safety.army.mil>. The summer campaigns stress the importance of proac-

tive prevention and focused risk mitigation during summer months.

"Historically, our off-duty fatality rates inevitably increase from April to September," said Brig. Gen. William Wolf, USACR/Safety commanding general and director of Army Safety, in the campaign's initial release. "In fiscal 2009, almost 40 percent of our accidents occurred during this timeframe, with POV and motorcycle accidents leading the way every month."

By being engaged, we can help lower this summertime risk.

And, you don't have to be the head of an organization to be a leader. Be a leader by promoting safety within your unit, your Family Readiness Group, your softball team and around your own dinner table.

If you take your Family out to enjoy the lake and rent a boat at the Fort Riley Marina, teach your children safe boating practices as you go along. This summer, we upped the requirements to rent a boat. Renters now must complete the Kansas State Boaters Safety Course which is available in person or online under the boating link at www.kdwp.state.ks.us. We did this to help keep our Soldiers, Family members and civilian employees safe.

Start your safety lessons even before you get to the marina or any other summer destination. When you get in the car, before you even start it, take the time to make sure your Family is buckled in. These extra few minutes can help build a culture of safety within your Family.

Summer fun includes riding motorcycles, all-terrain vehicle and dirt bikes, play in the sun, swimming with our children, driving to see the grandparents and many more activities that keep us constantly on the go. While running from here to there, don't forget to take those extra few minutes to make sure you are thinking about safety. Let's make this summer a safe one.

For more information or training materials, call the Garrison Safety Office at 785-239-2514 or click the 101 Days of Summer Safety Campaign link at www.riley.army.mil.

If you would like to comment on this article or suggest a topic for the Community Corner, send an e-mail to riley.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil.



Shandi Dix | POST

Capt. Edward Ziembinski talks to Wamego Middle School seventh graders about his time in Afghanistan. Ziembinski surprised Christopher Rosell with a visit on his 13th birthday. The two have been pen pals for more than a year through the USO.

Soldier visits Wamego Middle School to surprise his pen pal

By Shandi Dix
1ST INF. DIV. POST

For his 13th birthday, Wamego Middle School seventh-grade student, Christopher Rosell, received an extra special gift May 14 thanks to planning by his mom and the school.

Rosell has been writing letters to a Soldier for more than a year during his deployment to Afghanistan.

Capt. Edward Ziembinski and Rosell were introduced a year ago through April Blackmon, director, USO Fort Riley, and began writing each other through e-mail. Once Ziembinski deployed the two began writing letters about once a month.

With the help of the school faculty Ziembinski was brought in as a guest speaker for the seventh-grade class to talk about the war in Afghanistan. Rosell had no idea what was going on until he was asked

to come down and introduce the speaker.

Ziembinski described Rosell's face as "they got me" when he walked in.

This was the first time the two met in person. Ziembinski sent Rosell some photos of himself while deployed so Rosell had an idea of what his pen pal looked like.

"I recognized him right off the bat," Rosell said.

Rosell was glad Ziembinski came to his school to surprise him and spent a few hours of the school day with him.

"I always thought I'd like to be a Soldier and always wanted to know one," Rosell said. "I've learned that the Army has lots of responsibilities."

While deployed Ziembinski was the operations officer for the Afghanistan Police Headquarters. "My duty was to mentor and advise the operations section for the regional headquarters for the Afghan National Police,

Ziembinski. "We planned out all of the police operations happening in the six provinces in the south."

He is currently between duty assignments.

Ziembinski described Rosell's letters as inquisitive.

"Usually (he) would tell me about things that he was doing, how things were going at school, going out and shooting, hanging out with his dad, going to Fort Riley, seeing Army vehicles," he said. "Asking me questions about what do I eat, what do I do all day, where are we at; much more basic things." Ziembinski enjoyed the letters he received from Rosell.

"One, it was fun talking to him because all the rest of my letters were from adults, but it's a lot more satisfying writing to a young man," Ziembinski said. "Talking about what I was doing, he had very, very different questions, and I just got a lot of fulfillment out of talking to him."

Woodrow Wilson students earn trip to Nat'l History Day

By Shandi Dix
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Sarah Lilley, sixth grader, Woodrow Wilson Elementary School in Manhattan, Kan., is among the nine students who have the honor of attending the National History Day competition in College Park, Md., June 13-17.

Lilley is the daughter of Maj. Aaron Lilley, executive officer, 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, who will not be able to attend the competition but will be able to watch the awards ceremony via a live webcast on the History Channel's website.

Lilley will join six of her fellow students, a Marlatt Elementary School student and a Manhattan High School student on the trip.

Woodrow and Marlatt Elementary School's teacher, Terry Healy, described the competition as a science fair for history.

The students had to win the district contest before competing at the state level to qualify for nationals.

Lilley won the district competition and placed first at the state level with a dramatic presentation about Percy Spencer and his invention of the microwave.

"I wanted an inventor and then I heard about Percy Spencer, and I wanted to do that because I use the microwave almost every day," she said.

Research on the projects began in October with trips to the Kansas State Historical Society and the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum. Lilley then worked on scripts and scenery followed by memorization of the script.

"(I was) amazed," she brought in humor and creativity and still got all of the facts across and has a really amazing stage presence," Healy said. "She acts and she looks like she's enjoying it and convinces you that she's enjoying it."

"This has been a really great experience for all of the kids, and Mrs. Healy has really put out a lot of effort this year to help and encourage the kids and keep them on track," said Allison Lilley, Lilley's mom. "It's really improved Sarah's research skills. The fact that she took all of this information and put it into a skit form, they way she has it flowing, it's very good and it really gave Sarah a chance to show her talents because I think she's a great writer, but she's a great performer and this gave her a chance to do both."

During the five-day long competition the students will be allowed to do a little sight-seeing.

"I'm really excited because I'm glad that they give us four or five days so that we do the competition the first day and if you make it to the finals you do it the second day and then you have a whole day or two to forget about it and tour D.C.," Lilley said.

Home wanted

Kari

Kari is a 1-year-old female domestic shorthair calico that is litterbox trained. Kari will need all of her vaccinations and a microchip, so her adoption fee will be \$67. It is unknown whether she's spayed, but she does have all of her claws. If you're interested in adopting Kari and have other pets, it's recommended you bring them in to see if they're compatible.

Fort Riley Stray Facility
Building 226 Custer Ave., Main Post
Noon to 4 p.m.
Monday through Friday
785-239-6183

