

## COMMUNITY CORNER

## Area communities to renew their covenants with 1st ID, Fort Riley

By Col. Kevin Brown  
GARRISON COMMANDER

The Central Flint Hill Region welcomed the 1st Infantry Division back to Fort Riley in 2006. Since then, partnerships between the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley and the region's communities have flourished.

Our units partner with area schools from kindergartens to universities. Battalions have adopted communities and participate in civic events. At all levels, Fort Riley and the 1st Inf. Div. have developed strong cooperative relationships with local, regional and state leaders.

In 2008, these partnerships were officially recognized with the signing of the first Army Community Covenants. County leaders from the Central Flint Hills Region gathered with Army leaders and Families

in front of the Division Headquarters to pledge their support to our Families.

This year, our communities are renewing those covenants. The community covenants are living documents. Each year we build on our accomplishments and update the covenants as Army and community leaders change. This year community covenant signings will take place in each of the counties of the Central Flint Hills Region. In addition to the seven counties whose leaders signed the 2008 Army Community Covenant – Clay, Dickinson, Geary, Morris, Pottawatomie, Riley and Wabaunsee – this year's covenant also will be signed by representatives



Col. Brown

from an eighth county – Saline.

Signings are tentatively scheduled for the following dates and events:

- Geary County – The signing will take place at 7:30 a.m. July 22 at the Geary County-Junction City Military Affairs Council breakfast at the Courtyard Marriott in Junction City. Geary County is partnered with 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

- Wabaunsee County – The signing will take place at 6:45 p.m. July 25 at the Alma Fairgrounds in conjunction with the Wabaunsee County Fair, which will run through July 29. Wabaunsee County is partnered with the 1st Sustainment Brigade.

- Saline County – The signing will take place at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 4 in downtown Salina prior to the start of the Tri-Rivers Fair Parade. Besides the

covenant signing, the Tri-Rivers Fair will include a rodeo, car demo derby, truck show, music and a draft horse show. Saline County is partnered with the Combat Aviation Brigade.

- Clay County – The signing will take place at 9 a.m. Sept. 25 in downtown Clay Center in conjunction with Piotique Days. Named by combining the words pioneer and antique, the Piotique Festival, has been celebrated in Clay Center since the 1936 and will include a parade, entertainer and a run. Clay County is partnered with 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

- Riley County – The signing will take place during half-time of the Kansas State University and Fort Riley Day football game Sept. 25 at Snyder Family Stadium in Manhattan. K-State, Fort Riley Day is an annual event that brings students and

Soldiers together to cheer on the Wildcats. Riley County is partnered with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

- Dickinson County – The signing will take place at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 2 during the Chisholm Trail Days in Abilene. The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and include live entertainment, folk craft demonstrations and an antique farm show. Dickinson County is partnered with 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

- Pottawatomie County – The signing will take place at 2 p.m. Oct. 3 during OZtober-Fest in Wamego. This festival, which centers around "The Wizard of Oz," includes theater productions and numerous special guests. Pottawatomie County is partnered with the Combat Aviation Brigade.

- Morris County – The signing will take place Oct. 9

during Grillin' in the Grove in Council Grove. Morris County is partnered with 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

The eight signed county covenants will be on display during a master covenant signing on Armed Forces Day in February 2011 at the capitol in Topeka.

The strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families. The strength of Families is supported by the strength of the communities they live in. The strength of the communities comes from the support of employers, educators, civic and business leaders and its citizens. Together, we in the Central Flint Hills Region make a great team.

To comment on this article or to suggest a topic for Community Corner, e-mail [rile.post.news@comus.army.mil](mailto:rile.post.news@comus.army.mil).

## JC MAC focuses on ACS services

By Shandi Dix  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Through a presentation given by Cheryl Erickson, chief, Army Community Service, June 24 at the Junction City-Geary County Military Affairs Council breakfast, attendees at the breakfast learned about the array of services ACS provides to Soldier, Families, retirees and the public.

With the 11 programs ACS offers, a broad range of topics are covered from parenting and finances to employment and relocation.

Erickson highlighted the Army Family Action Program that identifies and prioritizes issues of concern for Army Families.

"This really works," Erickson said. "A significant number of changes have been made through the AFAP process."

Fort Riley offers teens the chance to speak out in their own



Shandi Dix | POST

Cheryl Erickson, chief, ACS, speaks to community leaders June 24 during the Junction City/Geary County Military Affairs Council breakfast at the Geary County Convention Center in the Courtyard by Marriott. The next breakfast will be July 22 and the speaker is yet to be determined.

AFAP, geared toward issues they have at the installation. Issues from this gathering are then taken to the adult AFAP and presented by the teens to Garrison Commander Col. Kevin Brown and other senior leaders.

When Erickson worked with the Marine Corps her colleagues

recognized AFAP as one of the programs the Army was doing right.

Brown got Erickson and attendees laughing with his question for Erickson to clarify if her colleagues thought it was the only thing that the Army did right. Erickson quickly assured

Brown that it was one of many areas where the Army was successful.

"Spouse Training 101" also known as Army Family Team Building offers new Army spouses and even community members the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of the Army such as ranks and pay structures.

ACS also offers Survivor Outreach Services, which provides comprehensive support programs for survivors of fallen Soldiers. This past spring SOS hosted its first Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors at Fort Riley.

Also offered by ACS is the Financial Readiness Program, which includes programs that provide financial help for emergencies that require immediate attention.

The FRP includes things such as voluntary help with

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## Home wanted

## Jojo

Jojo is a female domestic short hair. She is not spayed or de-clawed, but she is litterbox trained. Jojo appears to get along well with cats. She's a little hesitant around dogs, but she will warm up to them over time. She is up to date on all of her vaccinations although they will need paid for. She will also need a microchip. Her adoption fee is \$67.

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

## 4-4, Council Grove renew partnership

By 2nd Lt. Robert Kunze  
1ST HBCT

A small contingent of Soldiers accompanied the 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division leadership to the town of Council Grove June 21 to renew its Adopt-a-Community partnership.

The Adopt-a-Community Program has forged relationships between the units of the 1st Inf. Div. and local communities. Partnering a unit with a specific township creates awareness of both the unit's mission and the town's.

The city of Council Grove and 4th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt. have been partnered for several years and with new unit leadership, a new covenant was signed to continue the partnership.

The visit was scheduled during a city council meeting, which provided the opportunity for the Soldiers to meet, and become familiar with, Council Grove's government representatives, police, leadership and other citizens who are involved with the city's affairs. Council Grove's Mayor, Cynthia Engle, and the city council welcomed the visiting party with sandwiches, chips and drinks.

The Lt. Col. Michael Katona, 4th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt. commander, and the squadron Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Cook commemorated the event with the presentation of a plaque that pledged the unit's support and partnership with the city. In return, Engle presented Katona and Cook with a "Thank You" banner that included the signatures of hundreds of Council Grove citizens.

"We love to hear this: '(Council Grove) reminds me of my hometown' or 'this feels like home.'" Especially when soldiers say it," Engle said. "We want to provide some comfort or recreation while the troops are home. That is our goal."

"Council Grove is what right looks like," Katona said. "This is definitely a community where we would encourage our sol-



2nd Lt. Robert Kunze | 1ST HBCT

Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Cook and Lt. Col. Michael Katona of 4th Sqdn., 4th Cav. Regt., 1st HBCT, stand with Council Grove mayor and city council members during an Adopt-a-Community Covenant signing June 21.

diers to spend their time."

To gain some training value out of the visit, Katona had his staff approach the event as if it were a key leader engagement during a deployment. He encouraged interaction with the city's residents and incited interest in its culture. The group gained knowledge of the city and the locations in and around Council Grove that have historic, economic and recreational value.

"This is exactly the kind of thing we will be doing while deployed, and I want my Sol-

diers to be comfortable and competent in a social situation," Katona explained. "We can do the greatest training in the world. But you can't train this. You can't train partnerships. You have to build them. That is exactly what we are doing here today."

After gestures of appreciation and fellowship were exchanged, the Soldiers departed with a better understanding of the community and its contribution to the unit. Engle concluded with the promise, "You will always have a home in Council Grove."