

COMMANDER'S CORNER

ACS has a program for that: Services assist Soldiers, Families, civilians

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

Need to talk to someone? ACS has a program for that. Money problems? ACS has a program for that. Need a job? ACS has a program for that. Kids driving you crazy? ACS has a program for that. Getting ready to move? ACS has a program for that, too.

Now, take a guess what Army Community Service's theme for September will be. If you guessed, "ACS has a program for that," then you are correct.

During September, ACS will highlight the numerous programs it provides to help our Soldiers and Family members at Fort Riley. If you've never been to ACS, stop in and see what they have to offer.

ACS houses our Army Family Action Plan staff who are preparing for the upcoming conference in October. AFAP takes our



Col. Brown

Families' issues and proposed solutions and presents them to Fort Riley's commanders for action. If we can't solve the issue at this level, it is forwarded to the Department of the Army and beyond for resolution. This is a great Army program which has been improving our Army for more than 25 years.

For those who want to learn a little more about the Army, ACS has a program for that. Army Family Team Building comprises three levels beginning with Level I, "Army 101," progressing to Level II, "Manage Yourself," and

finishing with Level III, "Managing Others." Once you know all there is to know, pass on your Army knowledge by becoming a volunteer APTB instructor.

The staff at the Employment Readiness Program can help you look for a job. They host regular job-seeker workshops to teach participants the difference between federal and civilian resume styles, and they assist with resume preparation.

For Families, ACS offers help through the New Parent Support Program, the Family Advocacy Program and the Exceptional Family Member Program. Hearts Apart supports Families who are at Fort Riley without their sponsors. No matter your situation, ACS has a program for that.

Our Soldiers and Families deserve services commensurate with their service and sacrifice for this nation. Under the Army Family Covenant, ACS is able to provide those services for our Families. If there is something

you need, make sure to check in at ACS. If they can't help you, they will refer you to someone who can.

To find out more about programs at ACS, keep an eye out for their September campaign, stop by ACS in Building 7264, Normandy Drive, Custer Hill 9435; or visit www.rileymwr.com and click ACS.

To comment on this column or suggest a topic for the Community Corner, e-mail rlc.pnt.ncu.pap@comus.army.mil.

SAFETY NOTES

Back to school a time to keep safety in mind, especially when traveling

GARRISON SAFETY OFFICE

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The Installation Management Command recently released safety tips for children traveling to and from school.

The following is a list of tips for parents to help ensure their children arrive and return from school safely.

SCHOOL BUS

- If the school bus has lap/shoulder seatbelts, make sure children use them at all times. If the school bus does not have lap/shoulder belts, encourage the school to buy or lease buses with lap/shoulder belts.

- Wait for the bus to stop before approaching it from the curb.

- Do not move around on the bus.

- Check to ensure no other traffic is coming before crossing.

- Make sure to always remain in clear view of the bus driver.

- All passengers should wear a seat belt and/or an age- and size-appropriate car safety seat or booster seat.

- Children should ride in a car safety seat with a harness, as long as possible, and then ride in a belt-positioning booster seat.

- Children should ride in a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle's seat belt fits properly (usually when the child reaches about 4' 9" in height and is between 8 to 12 years of age).

- All children under 13 years of age should ride in the rear seat of vehicles.

- If there are more children than can fit in the rear seat (when carpooling, for example), move the front-seat passenger's seat as far back as possible. Then have the child ride in a booster seat if the seat belts do not fit properly without the booster seat.

BIKE

- Always wear a bicycle helmet, no matter how short or long the ride.

- Ride on the right, in the same direction as vehicle traffic.
- Use appropriate hand signals.

- Respect traffic lights and stop signs.

- Wear bright colored clothing to increase visibility.
- Know the "rules of the road."

WALKING TO SCHOOL

- Make sure a child's walk to school is a safe route with well-trained adult crossing guards at every intersection.

- Be realistic about a child's pedestrian skills. Because small children are impulsive and less cautious around traffic, carefully consider whether or not a child is ready to walk to school without adult supervision.
- Bright colored clothing is more visible to drivers.

OLD GLORY



Chaplain (Maj.) Doyle Coffman, addresses those in attendance at the flag dedication of the Wabaunsee Cemetery Aug 15. Located just east of Wabaunsee, Kan., the Wabaunsee Cemetery was first used in 1854 and includes the resting places of veterans of conflicts dating back to the Civil War. This was the first ceremony and celebration of its kind for the Wabaunsee Cemetery.

Andy Massanet | USAG

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