

## COMMUNITY CORNER

## Veterans Day time to remember, honor those who serve, commander says

By Col. Kevin Brown  
GARRISON COMMANDER

For more than half of the last century, U.S. Soldiers have been involved in operations around the globe.

More than 4 million Soldiers fought in World War I; more than 11 million in World War II; about 3 million in Korea; more than 4 million in Vietnam; and nearly 800,000 in the Gulf War.

Since operations began in Afghanistan and Iraq, most of our Soldiers have deployed at least once, if not three, four or five times.

While those may seem like large numbers, according to U.S. Census Bureau and Department of Defense statistics, in 1950, just six years after the end of World War II, slightly

less than one percent of Americans

were serving in the military. In 1972, just before the end of the draft, 1.12 percent of Americans were serving in the military.

Today's all-volunteer military is made up of just under half a percent of the American public.

Next week, we will honor those veterans — those who had the courage to serve. Some served by choice and some served by chance, nonetheless, they all deserve our respect and the support of the Army.

Fort Riley's Irwin Army Community Hospital houses a



Col. Brown

one-stop shop for veterans on the fourth floor of the hospital.

The IACH Department of Veterans Affairs office provides services and information for Soldiers, veterans, Family members and survivors.

Services provided include assistance and information on VA benefits like disability claims and compensation, pension and VA home loan guarantee, educational programs and vocational rehabilitation and employment information.

The office is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Walk-ins are welcome, but they recommend you call ahead.

Call 785-240-7307 for vocational rehabilitation and employment; 785-240-7302 for veterans health administration; and 785-240-7283, 785-240-

7282, 785-240-7308 or 785-240-7312 for military service coordinators.

For more information on VA services, stop by the office or visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

For our veterans recently redeployed from the Mideast, Fort Riley offers numerous services to help with reintegration to garrison life.

When they recently returned home, "Dragon" Brigade's Soldiers each had the opportunity to speak to a military Family life consultant.

The consultants keep no records to encourage Soldiers to speak openly and honestly about their experiences and what they feel they need. Consultants can refer Soldiers to the help they need.

For more information on military Family life consultants,

call 785-221-9483 or 785-239-9535.

Veterans who are transitioning out of the Army can benefit from the Army Career and Alumni Program. ACAP provides pre-separation briefings, counseling and referrals to teach Soldiers about programs available to help them transition to civilian life. The staff also provides job assistance and resources.

For more information on ACAP, visit [www.acap.army.mil/](http://www.acap.army.mil/), call 785-239-2278 or stop by the ACAP main office in Building 210 Custer Ave., Room 006, on Main Post, or the Soldier and Family Assistance Center office at 674 Warrior Road.

Besides housing an ACAP office, the Soldier and Family Assistance Center also pro-

vides wounded warriors with everything from housing to assistance receiving benefits. The SFAC is located at 674 Warrior Road.

Explore Fort Riley's website at [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil) to learn about other services offered for our veterans and their Families.

We continually strive to fit our services to the needs of our Soldiers and their Families to provide them with benefits commensurate with the sacrifices they make.

Thank you to all of the Soldier and Families at Fort Riley and across our Army. We appreciate you.

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

## Dependents can earn high school diploma on post

By Katherine Rosario  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Army Community Service has teamed up with the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, Junction City, to offer military dependents free on-line classes to earn their high school diploma.

The diploma can be earned at the ACS building's new Distance Learning Center. The center has six computers and a certified teacher.

"Students who complete their high school requirements to graduate can even walk down the aisle at the Junction City High School graduation ceremony," said Jeff Freeborn, curriculum coordinator.

Freeborn said the program

has been successful helping people earn diplomas at Junction City High School for the past 12 years.

The decision to open a satellite branch on post came after Freeborn saw the need for men and women, who did not have a high school diploma or GED, looking to join the Army in the recruiting office next to his office.

"There is no difference between the GED and a high school diploma other than some employers may want to see one over the other," Freeborn said.

The main difference for the student, however, is the high school completion program allows students to complete only the classes they need to

graduate, and a GED requires mastery of each high school subject and a comprehensive test before a certificate can be awarded.

The program offered at ACS is primarily for people over the age of 18 or those who are younger with children looking to complete high school.

Cheryl Erickson, ACS director, said the decision to put the high school completion program in the ACS building came about because it is on post and an accessible and convenient location for dependents.

"The building is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. so students can come and go as they please to finish their courses,"

Erickson said.

In the two weeks since its opening, program officials on post has signed up nine students.

A full-time certified teacher is present at the ACS building to assist students and grade reports and papers.

Students are enrolled in two to three classes at a time, Freeborn said, and it takes about three weeks to complete a class.

"This is also a great program for foreign-born spouses who need to get a degree for a job or just want to get their high school diploma," Erickson said.

For more information, call Freeborn at 785-223-6691 or ACS at 785-239-9435.

## Donate blood, win prizes during Red Cross drive

SPECIAL TO THE POST

The race for points is on as Red Cross Racing revs up for the 2010 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series.

Red Cross Racing members can get points for a variety of activities, including giving blood and/or platelets and recruiting other blood donors.

Those points may be exchanged for prizes like duffle bags, gardening sets, laptop computer holders and other merchandise.

Fans are invited to enter the 2010 Ready, Set, Give and Win Sweepstakes by logging on to [redcrossracing.com](http://redcrossracing.com) and clicking on the Sweepstakes icon on the track.

Two grand prize winners will receive the following: A VIP trip for two as honorary

pit crew members to a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Race. The winners of the contest will be guests of the No. 16 3M/American Red Cross Team.

The VIP trip also includes roundtrip air travel, two night's accommodations and VIP tours with meet and greets at the race.

For the third year in a row, Greg Biffle, driver of the No. 16 3M Ford Fusion, is raising awareness about the ongoing need for blood donations — especially from type O donors like him.

Fort Riley donors may give blood from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 16 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 17 at Army Community Service building, Building 7264, on Custer Hill.

For more information, go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

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