

## COMMUNITY CORNER

## Post provides services, embraces survivors of fallen service members

By Col. Kevin Brown  
GARRISON COMMANDER

The Army and Fort Riley will always hold close the promise to never leave a fallen comrade. That promise extends to the survivors left behind and is fulfilled by Survivor Outreach Services.

SOS is in place to provide Families of the fallen with the services and support they need. At Fort Riley, the program began in April 2009 with a support coordinator and financial counselor at Army Community Services.

Since then, the staff has added another support coordi-

inator to help make sure we're reaching all of the survivors in the Kansas and Nebraska area, and has relocated to a newly renovated building on Main Post.

Outreach Services is now housed in Grimes Hall, 510 Huebner Road, and includes SOS, the American Red Cross, Military Family Life Consultants, Family Life Ministries and the Confidential Alcohol Treatment and Education Pilot program.



Col. Brown

An addition in the new facility is the Hall of Heroes, a display to honor and remember those Soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Surviving Families are encouraged to provide a photo of their fallen Soldier to display in the Hall of Heroes.

The mission of SOS is to embrace and reassure survivors they are continually linked to the Army Family through a unified support program that enables them to remain an important part of the Army Family for as long as they desire.

To help accomplish this, SOS has reached out to the survivors in this area and provides them various venues for

information and interaction. Over the past year, SOS has established a page on Facebook and a quarterly newsletter.

These two sources provide Families updates on events and new benefits, as well as changes in benefits.

SOS has bi-monthly Survivor forums to educate and discuss survivor topics. These forums bring resources, including legal, casualty, Veterans Affairs and Social Security to our surviving Families. The forums are at Fort Riley and in the Wichita area.

Recently, survivor decals were approved for surviving Family members to place on their vehicles. SOS will assist

Families in obtaining the new surviving Family member decals, which will allow Families easier access to the installations and provide greater recognition for the service and sacrifice of their fallen Soldier.

To recognize the children of our fallen service members, SOS will host a Ceremony of Remembrance during the Month of the Military Child. On April 10, children who lost a parent while the parent was serving in operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom or New Dawn will receive a medal of remembrance in recognition of their sacrifices.

Other upcoming events will include participation in the

Walk to Remember in Emporia, where a surviving Family member will be presented the Battlefield Cross. Fort Riley's SOS also will participate in a display of the Lost Heroes Art Quilt and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors Good Grief Camp, hosted at Fort Leavenworth.

To learn more about SOS, stop by Grimes Hall, call 785-239-9435, the 24-hour hotline at 785-221-8595, or e-mail rle.dmwcracs@conus.army.mil.

*If you would like to comment on this column or suggest a topic for the Community Corner, e-mail rle.post.newspaper@us.army.mil.*

## MRC receives update on Iraq

By Sgt. Keven Parry  
1ST HBCT

MANHATTAN — Col. Charles T. Hensley, operations officer, 1st Infantry Division, spoke at the Manhattan Military Relations Committee luncheon March 2 at the Manhattan Country Club about the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion's recent deployment to Iraq.

Hensley told the audience about the country itself, describing its size, population and average income of the people. He compared Iraq to Kansas, including everything that comes with living in the plains of Kansas, to help his listeners understand what it's like for Soldiers and Iraqis.

The Soldiers of DHHB had responsibility for half of the provinces in Iraq, Hensley said, noting each province has at least one major city located within its boundaries, some of which have historical and religious significance to the people of Iraq.

Stability was an issue, Hensley said. The intent of Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley commanding general, was to increase and strengthen stability



Sgt. Keven Parry | 1st HBCT  
Col. Charles T. Hensley, operations officer, 1st Inf. Div., speaks to audience members March 2 at the Manhattan MRC about the DHHB's recent deployment and progress made in Iraq.

in the DHHB area of responsibility.

"How do we help accelerate stability?" Hensley asked. "We really do that through the

economy," he said, explaining that Brooks mapped out several aspects to successfully attain that goal.

The first method was through infrastructure and helping the Iraqi people with their organizations; through proper training of the Iraqi security forces, so civilians could feel secure; and through the continued draw down of U.S. forces in Iraq.

Hensley said he felt Iraq and its people have shown great progress and even greater potential. He later explained the progress within Iraq is easy to see when measured from the first moment U.S. forces entered the country.

When progress is measured over a short period of time, like a few months or even one year, Hensley said, it's difficult to see the progress. When you look at the progress over the total time the U.S. has been in the country and working with the people there, he said the progress is easy to see.

Hensley also informed members of the Manhattan MAC of the mission and accomplishments of not just DHHB in Iraq, but of the overall progress that has been made in that country.

## HEALING MINDS



Katherine Rosario | POST

Earl Robinson, Family extension specialist, Family Advocacy Program, Army Community Service, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, right, practices Bal-A-Vis-X, short for balance, auditory, vision and exercise moves during the Resilient Spouse Academy March 8 at the Resiliency Learning Center. With more than 250 movements, the technique is thought to help heal mind and body when under stress for prolonged periods. The RSA, which ran March 7 to 11, teaches spouses how to help Soldiers and Families handle all aspects of deployment stress, including finances, domestic violence and suicide through a variety of videos, guest speakers, role-playing sessions and breakout groups. The next academy is April 8 to 9, 15 to 16 and 23. To sign up for the academy, call ACS at 785-239-9435.

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