

COMMUNITY CORNER

# Preventing sexual assault is everyone's responsibility, commander says

By Col. Kevin Brown  
GARRISON COMMANDER

It is the duty of every person on and off Fort Riley to help prevent sexual assault at all times. April is set aside as a month to bring awareness of sexual assault to the forefront.

The Army's sexual assault prevention campaign, I AM Strong, encourages everyone to intervene, act and motivate others to put a stop to sexual assault.

The campaign encourages Soldiers to uphold the following:

**INTERVENE**

When I recognize a threat to my fellow Soldiers, I will have the personal courage to intervene and prevent sexual assault.

I am a warrior and a member of a team. I will intervene.

**ACT**

You are my brother, my sister, my fellow Soldier. It is my duty to stand up for you, no matter the time or place. I will take action. I will do what's right. I will prevent sexual assault. I will act.

**MOTIVATE**

We are American Soldiers, motivated to engage and keep our fellow Soldiers safe. It is our mission to prevent sexual assault. As Soldiers, we are all motivated to take action. While each and every



Col. Brown

Soldier, civilian and Family member in our Army shows strength in their own ways, our Army is strongest when we all work together. Find out what you can do to help prevent sexual assault.

Some suggestions from the Army's Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention program are:

- Being assertive. State what you want. If you do not want to be intimate with another person, tell him or her clearly. Use a confident voice and body posture. Match your body language to your words—don't laugh and smile while saying, "No."
- Be prepared. Travel with a buddy. Stay in groups because there is safety in numbers. Plan your outings and avoid getting into a bad situation. Stay sober. Studies indicate about half of all

U.S. sexual assaults involve the use of alcohol by the offender, the victim or both. Never leave a drink unattended. Educate yourself about date rape drugs.

• Be alert. Trust your instincts. If a place or person feels unsafe, it probably is. Watch for signs of trouble like strangers in private areas or persons loitering in places where they shouldn't be. If you sense trouble, get to a safe place as soon as possible. If you feel you are in danger, attract help any way you can.

While our goal is to wipe out sexual assault, resources are in place if it happens. Victims have two options to report sexual assault—restricted and unrestricted reporting. Both options allow victims the support they need to take control of their situation and start healing. Restricted reports are for

those who would like to receive support while not triggering an official investigation. Victims of sexual assault who choose this option should report the assault to a sexual assault response coordinator, victim advocate, health care provider or chaplain. Restricted reporting allows victims to receive medical treatment, advocacy and counseling, while letting them take the time they need to consider their options.

Unrestricted reporting is for victims who would like to begin an official investigation of the crime against them. When making an unrestricted report, Soldiers should use their chain of command, law enforcement, sexual assault response coordinators or request their health care provider to contact law enforcement.

reach a sexual assault response coordinator at 785-239-2991 or 785-239-6086. The 24-hour crisis response line is 785-307-1373.

As Soldiers in the U.S. Army, it is our duty to stand beside each other and never leave a fellow comrade. It is our duty to intervene when we see a threat to a member of the Army Family.

It is our responsibility to act to prevent sexual assault. And it is our job to motivate those around us to uphold the Army values. To find out more about how you can help prevent sexual assault, visit [www.preventsexualassault.army.mil](http://www.preventsexualassault.army.mil).

*If you would like to comment on this article, or suggest a topic to be covered in the Community Corner, e-mail [rlc.post.news@comus.army.mil](mailto:rlc.post.news@comus.army.mil).*



R.L. Bailey | PGST

Sara Steudle, spouse of Sgt. Ronald Steudle, 116th MP Co., 97th MP Bn., checks on her potatoes following a rededication ceremony of the Community Victory Garden April 13 in the Forsyth Neighborhood.

## Fort Riley officials rededicate Community Victory Garden

By R.L. Bailey  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Fort Riley officials rededicated the Community Victory Garden April 13 in the Forsyth Neighborhood.

This time last year, the ribbon cutting ceremony was forced inside due to the effects of Mother Nature, but this year, weather seemed favorable for the outdoor event.

With the help of Soldiers and civilians, Community Victory Garden is starting to cultivate in its second year of operation.

"We're growing food for mind, body and spirit," said Susan Schoneweis, Kansas State University's Research and Ex-

tension Office. Schoneweis offers classes on post about how to maintain a garden. This is her second year working with the program.

The community garden is located on River Road, off of Trooper Drive in the Forsyth Neighborhood. The Community Victory Garden is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Riley, Picerne Military Housing, Army Community Service, K-State Research and Extension office and the Fort Riley Community Victory Garden Association.

Picerne Military Housing residents are eligible to reserve a plot. The garden consists of 72 plots, with about 24 plots

that are organic. Each plot is 20 by 20 feet. Originally, the garden was designed for 60 plots, which were quickly reserved. The additional 12 plots were added to the area in early April 2011.

All plots are currently reserved, and a wait list is in place. To request to be placed on the garden wait list, visit [www.rileypicerne.com](http://www.rileypicerne.com), click on the garden logo, and complete and submit the electronic form. Request forms also are available at each neighborhood office.

For more information about the garden please call 785-717-2200 or e-mail [rileygardens@picerne.com](mailto:rileygardens@picerne.com).

## Student population changes warrant 'second count' at school districts

By Shandi Dix  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Changes in student body populations because of military Families being transferred to different posts after Sept. 20 each school year warranted the start of a "second count" in order to assist affected school districts with finances.

"The State of Kansas' school finance formula is based upon the number of students enrolled and attending school on a given day—Sept. 20.

"If a child enrolls after the Sept. 20 date, traditionally there is no funding available for that child to the school district, even though the child is served in the school district," said Janet Christian, executive coordinator of finance, Geary County Unified School District 475.

Geary County USD 475, which includes schools at Fort Riley, is an exception to the rule.

"The exception to the law

is if a district's enrollment of military dependent pupils has increased the overall enrollment by at least 25 students or by a number equal to one percent or more of the district's total enrollment, then the district may count that child, if the military dependent is enrolled and attending on Feb. 20," Christian said.

If a military dependent student is absent Feb. 20, then that student must have attended classes at least one day between Feb. 1 and 19 and one day after Feb. 20, but before March 4.

A military dependent pupil is defined as "a person who is a dependent of a full-time active-duty member of the military service or a dependent of a member of any U.S. military reserve forces who has been ordered to active duty," according to Christian.

The second date is important to the Geary County district because it allows the district to count military chil-

dren in the finance formula, even if the Family arrived after the Sept. 20 enrollment date, Christian said.

Estimates were made by school officials in July 2010 of how many students would be included in the 2011 second count date.

"This is a difficult task at best," Christian said. "The unfortunate thing is that if you estimate too high on your count, your budget appears inflated, and you run the risk of a false sense of security of budget authority. This is a figure that is wise to estimate conservatively on."

Officials estimated an addition of 200 military students in July 2010. Following the actual count in February, the count was 377.

"The budget of the school district is increased by the amount of students that is over the estimate, so this fiscal year, that would be 177 additional students," Christian said.

### Stay in touch from anywhere

Sign up for In Touch with Fort Riley to get information about upcoming events or services on post and in surrounding communities.

To register, visit [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil) and complete the form linked on the homepage.

**You can't smell it, but everyone else can.**

If you smoke, you must be 50 feet away from building entrances on post.