

## COMMUNITY CORNER

## Celebrate military spouses with 'Riley Through the Ages,' commander says

By Col. Kevin Brown  
GARRISON COMMANDER

May is Military Appreciation Month, and throughout the month, individuals and organizations, on and off post, will show their appreciation for our armed forces. But on May 6, we will take time to honor another part of our military family—military spouses.

Fort Riley will celebrate Military Spouse Appreciation Day with, "Riley Through the Ages: A Garden Party Celebrating Military Spouses Then and Now." The event is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 7 at Riley's Conference Center.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day was started in 1984 by President Ronald Reagan to recognize military spouses who stand by their service members. I hope that you will join me in publicly saying, "thank you" for their dedication, sacrifices and loyalty.

Military spouses serve our Army, too. They may not wear our uniform—though some do—but they balance military life, family life and their own careers or interests in order to



Col. Brown

support the service member they love.

They serve their Families, their communities, in their workplace and in their homes. Military spouses hold full-time jobs. They volunteer locally. They are stay-at-home parents. Some are even service members. They serve as confidants to our Soldiers, listening to their joys and their fears. They serve as a source of strength for each other during the most difficult times. Sometimes they even have to serve as both mother and father when the other parent is deployed.

They serve as a constant for our Soldiers in a world often filled with change and uncer-

tainty.

They are many things to many people, and they seem to be able to do it all—and for that, I thank you.

I want to personally thank each of you for your immeasurable contributions to our Army. As our Army and nation face new threats, you continue to be the cornerstone of the well-being of our Army Family.

You play an instrumental role in the readiness and success of our Soldiers. Your moral support and encouragement are the driving force behind the preparedness of our Army.

Without your support, our Army would not be the strong fighting force it is today.

Through deployments, trainings and other duties of our Soldiers, you not only survive, but you thrive.

I realize these past 10 years haven't been without hardship, but the Army has pledged its support to help Soldiers and Families remain strong.

In 2007, Army leaders signed the Army Family Covenant, which pledged support to our military Families commensurate with their Soldiers' level of service. Since then, the covenant has provided support for Family programs, physical and mental health care, housing, education, child care and employment opportunities for spouses.

I hope that you take advantage of the programs aimed to support those who support our Soldiers.

I invite you to start taking advantages of these programs by attending the Military Spouses Appreciation event, "Riley Through the Ages." If you are interested in attending, call Army Community Service at 785-239-9435. This event is just one way we will honor our military spouses this month. What else can you do to honor a military spouse?

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

## Brooks says goodbye, reflects on partnership

By Katherine Rosario  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The best memory Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, takes with him from his Junction City-Geary County experience is the partnership they formed with the installation, he said during an April 28 Junction City-Geary County Military Affairs Council breakfast.

"You saw us as valuable partners," he said. "That trust and partnership is what I am most proud of."

Brooks gave a recap of what the brigades at Fort Riley are working on and what the region has to look forward to in the future.

Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Inf. Div., recently returned from a one-year deployment to Southern Iraq and saw progress made in the country from its previous deployment, he said.

"For us to come back to Iraq after our prior deployments and see the progress that had been made and then continue to push it forward, in a place by its own choices can move backward, but by our own efforts will not, so see that progress was really something to behold," he said.

The 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., was a unit training Military Transition Teams to assist internal security forces in Afghanistan and Iraq three years ago before they became a heavy brigade combat team in 2009.

The brigade deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in 2010 because of the draw down of forces in Iraq and the drawing up of strength in Afghanistan.

Three battalions are in Iraq and three battalions are helping NATO efforts in Afghanistan.

"When the problems are really hard, American units get put in and all our allies know that," he said.

The 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., is currently the only 1st Inf. Div. brigade in Baghdad helping to advance the Iraqi units and is scheduled to return home in the fall this year.

The 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., a satellite unit out of Fort Knox, Ky., is conducting operations as one of the primary brigades out of Southeastern Afghanistan.

"They are doing some heavy fighting right now and have had some combat losses," Brooks said. "But they will make a difference, and they will be successful."

The 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team came home through last summer and was a leader in reducing the strength in Iraq, he said.

"They are training for their

next deployment, probably to Afghanistan, later in the year," he said.

The Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., recently returned from Iraq in March and is currently on block leave. The unit deployed to Iraq in March 2010.

"For more than half of their time there, they were the only aviation brigade operating the entire country of Iraq. There has never been an Army aviation unit created that way, to have a mission that size and to accomplish it to such a high standard," Brooks said.

The first aircraft are returning to Fort Riley and modernization efforts will take place during the winter to make the brigade the "most modern aviation brigade in the Army," he said.

The 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st Inf. Div., recently returned from Kuwait, Iraq, Oman and Afghanistan, where they were responsible for the logistics of moving supplies.

"You want to know who it is that has done this logistical miracle of drawing equipment out of Iraq, recycling some of it to be sent forward onto Afghanistan, bringing some of it back into inventory in the U.S., that brigade did," he said.

Fort Riley is fortunate to be well supported by the council, and it is important to Fort Riley because it is an important part of how the installation interfaces with both the city and the county, Brooks said.

Brooks will move to Fort McPherson, Ga., as the commanding general for the 3rd U.S. Army, and then move the colors of the headquarters to Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina.

"The future is very bright, and the momentum is clearly in place here in the Flint Hills, and we're eager to be part of that," he said.

The next meeting is May 26 at the Junction City Marriott.

## Parents learn techniques to change children's behaviors through 'Love and Logic' classes

By Katherine Rosario  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

As part of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Family Advocacy Program taught a three-week class on parenting to help couples and single parents learn how to set their children up for success April 21 at Army Community Service.

The class, "Becoming a Love and Logic Parent," aims to give parents tools to help their children be better prepared for life by using worksheets and videos. "Children don't make enough mistakes, and each mistake is an opportunity to teach," said Earl Robinson, FAP specialist and clinical social worker who helped teach the class.

Parents often fail to hold their children responsible for mistakes and yell at their children, thus accepting responsibility for their mistake, he said.

The class teaches parents to give children two positive choices for any situation and not to lecture them.

"Children's attention spans

are about 30 to 40 seconds, and after that, they zone out," he said.

The most challenging part of the program, he said, is teaching parents that it is OK to hold their child responsible for the mistakes they make and remaining calm through the process.

"The idea is to minimize the arguing and not let them see you as the bad guy," he said, adding that sometimes playing dumb will force the child to put the

blame on them and seek ways to fix the problem.

Playing the empathic parent will force a child to look upon him or herself as the cause of the problem, he said, causing them to see their parents as good and them as bad.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Franzen, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, said he attended the course because he recently became a single parent.

"I am exploring different ways of parenting and raising my children in a healthy and safe environment," he said.

Through the course, he has learned how to give his children two positive choices and how to communicate with his ex-wife.

"The lessons taught here have helped me in real-life situations," he said.

For more information, call 785-239-9435.



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