

## COMMUNITY CORNER

# Commander urges those celebrating holiday not to drink and drive

By Col. William Clark  
GARRISON COMMANDER

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, every day about 30 people in the U.S. die in a motor vehicle accident that involves an alcohol-impaired driver – that equals about one death every 48 minutes. If that's not startling enough, here are a few more statistics from the CDC about the dangers of driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

In 2009, 10,839 people were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, accounting for about one-third of all traffic-related deaths in the U.S.

Of the 1,314 traffic deaths among children ages 0 to 14 years in 2009, 181 – or 14 percent – involved an alcohol-impaired driver.

About half of those were riding in the vehicle with the alcohol-impaired driver.

In 2009, more than 1.4 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. That's less than 1 percent of the 147 million self-reported episodes of alcohol-impaired driving among U.S. adults each year.



Col. Clark

Drugs other than alcohol, like marijuana and cocaine, are involved in about 18 percent of motor vehicle driver deaths. These other drugs are often used in combination with alcohol.

In December, because of the holiday season, the U.S. tends to see a spike in alcohol- and drug-related accidents. Therefore, December is annually designated as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, often referred to as 3D Month.

The most important thing to remember is that accidents involving alcohol impairment are 100 percent preventable.

How? Either by choosing not to drink before operating a

motor vehicle or by designating a sober driver if you know you will be drinking. We've all heard the saying, "Friends don't let friends drive drunk." Here's another easy way to help you remember this concept is "Designate before we celebrate."

Designating a sober driver can mean the difference between life and death – your own, the driver's and other motorists on the roadway.

The purpose of this month – and of my column – is to remind you that, above all, you should be practicing safe and sober driving.

Besides planning ahead, what else can you as a leader, battle buddy, friend or Family member do to prevent acci-

dents?

If you see an impaired buddy about to make a poor decision, intervene and take his or her keys away.

If you are hosting a holiday party, remind guests to designate a sober driver. Offer alcohol-free beverages and food items at your party.

Take and/or encourage those around you to utilize services like the Riley Ride, a shuttle service that provides a safe way to and from Aggieville on Friday and Saturday nights.

Please help me ensure this holiday season is a merry one. Spend time with friends and Family, but do it safely. Let's not have our happy holidays overshadowed with tragic losses

because of drunk or drugged driving.

So remember, this holiday season, designate a sober driver before all holiday and New Year's festivities if you will be drinking.

For more information on 3D Prevention Month, call the staff of the Army Substance Abuse Program, Army Community Service, at 785-239-9435. For additional information, visit the CDC at [www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/Impaired\\_Driving/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/Impaired_Driving/index.html).

If you would like to comment on this column or suggest a topic for Community Corner, send an email to [rile.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil](mailto:rile.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil).

## K-State to offer class on financial concerns

K-STATE MEDIA RELATIONS

MANHATTAN – Managing personal finances is challenging for many people, especially members of the armed forces, who face deployments all over the world.

Military Personal Financial Readiness, FSHS 765, class number 15706, is an online intercession class offered Dec. 27, 2011, to Jan. 13, 2012, at Kansas State University.

"We came up with the concept last November, and we taught a pilot session of the class during the August 2011 intercession," said Esther Maddux, professor, K-State College of Family Studies and Human Services and instructor for the course. "The first class went very well, and we received a lot of positive feedback from members of the class."

Maddux, who has been in finance since 1973, was host at financial seminars for military financial counselors in the 1990s and has taught in K-State's online master's program in personal financial planning since 2003. Her experience teaching online courses has introduced her to many members of the military, even before the Military Personal Financial Readiness course began.

"I teach military students who may be assigned all over the world. I have military students in all of my classes," Maddux said. "And for about the last year, I have had the

opportunity to provide pre- and post-deployment financial counseling for military service members and their families."

The purpose of the online class is to train financial planners and contributors to help military service and Family members effectively deal with financial issues special to the military audience, but Maddux said the class would be beneficial for active-duty service members across all branches, retired service members or civilians who would like to serve military audiences.

The course gives an overview of the financial planning process and adapts the topics to address the special needs of and resources available to military service members and their families. Topics covered in the class include financial management, record keeping, risk management, savings, education planning and investment management, credit card and debt management, tax management and retirement management.

"The class gives students resources they need to answer questions for themselves. Long after the class is over, they know where to go to get information or help with finances," Maddux said.

Enrollment is open for January 2012 intercession. Learn more or view a complete list of available classes at <http://www.dce.k-state.edu/courses/intercession>.

## Shoplifting decreases at post exchanges

AAFES PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DALLAS – An abundance of shoplifting prevention measures, including eagle-eyed closed-circuit televisions with DVR technology, expanded use of high-tech electronic article surveillance and an aggressive youth awareness campaign produced a decrease in theft at Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities of 8.5 percent last year, from 5,950 incidents in 2009 to 5,444 last year.

The anti-shoplifting measures also are being cited as a factor in reducing the costs of products involved in detected cases, from \$655,169 to \$534,525 in 2010.

The Exchange, which has contributed more than \$2.4 billion to Air Force Services and Army IMCOM, G-9, Family and MWR programs in the past 10 years, continues to focus its efforts on reducing theft.

"Shoplifting at the Ex-

change results in a reduced return on investment to our primary shareholders, (which is) the military community," said Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Helm, the Exchange's senior enlisted adviser. "Because the Exchange is a command with a mission to return earnings to quality-of-life programs, people who steal from the Exchange don't only harm themselves, but directly impact FMWR's and service's ability to complete its mission."

If shoplifting is suspected, the Exchange Loss Prevention office turns the issue over to local law enforcement. In addition to possible disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution, the Federal Claims Collection Act allows the Exchange to enact a flat, administrative cost – civil recovery – of \$200. There may be further fees, in addition to the Civil Recovery Program, depending on the condition of the stolen merchandise.

## HOUSE FILL AD

