

COMMUNITY CORNER

Commander wishes Families, community safe, happy holiday

By Col. William Clark
GARRISON COMMANDER

It's hard to believe 2011 has come and is just about gone. It's been a great year at Fort Riley. We started the year by opening a comprehensive resiliency campus on Custer Hill. Since then, we've opened a full-scale Warrior Zone, unveiled renovations to the Exchange's Mini-Mall, and, among other improvements, continued progress toward the completion of a new hospital on post.

In 2011, Fort Riley was given a bronze medal in the Army Communities of Excellence Award and received a Secretary of the Army Quality of Life Best Practice Award for the development of the Resilient Spouse Academy. We later developed the first Resilient Youth Academy.

Our Soldiers, Families, civilians and retirees were entertained by performers like Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band, Aaron Lewis and United Fighting

Federation competitors. We enjoyed annual Fort Riley events like Victory Week, Fall Apple Day Festival and Oktoberfest.

We've welcomed home thousands of Soldiers from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and we've mourned the loss of those who did not return and who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

I hope we can add more accomplishments and positive memories to the list in 2012.

But before we look to 2012, enjoy the rest of 2011. As a Soldier, Family member, civilian or retiree – any member of the Fort Riley community – I know you have worked hard; you've sacrificed, and you deserve some time to enjoy and reflect at the end of the year. Spend time with your Family, friends and loved ones and spend it safely. Please remember what I have shared in some of my recent columns.

When driving in winter weather, remember the acronym SAFETY:

- Slow down for wet, snowy, icy conditions.

- Avoid quick braking and acceleration.

- Find out about driving conditions before you go.

- Every time – buckle up.

- Turn signals, brake lights and windows need to be clear of snow.

- You should never use cruise control in winter conditions.

Do not drink while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Accidents involving substance impairment are 100-percent preventable, either by choosing not to drink before operating a motor vehicle or by designating a sober driver if you know you will be drinking.

Let's have a safe holiday season and make sure we're all here to ring in the New Year.

To comment on this column or suggest a topic for Community Corner, e-mail riley.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil.



Garrison Commander Col. William Clark, left, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Colvin Bennett Sr., right, pose for a picture with Santa Claus during the ACS holiday celebration Dec. 6 at Riley's Conference Center. Clark and Bennett wish the Fort Riley community a happy and safe holiday season.

Melony Gabbart
POST

PLAYTIME



Parker Rome | POST

Children and parents play with modeling compound during a recent Play Pals play group at Child, Youth and School Services. CVSS will offer play groups Monday through Thursday every week beginning Jan. 9 through March at Normandy Child Development Center at 6620B Normandy Drive on Custer Hill.

A mother and son build a Christmas ornament out of puzzle pieces during a recent Play Pals play group at Child, Youth and School Services. The play group meets weekly and provides Families with a free opportunity to meet with other Families and use CVSS resources.

Parker Rome
POST



Mollie Miller | 1st Inf. Div.

From left to right, Terrisa Razez, volunteer for the 3rd AHB, 1st Avn. Regt., CAB; and Kelli Kidd and Monika McDwyer, both volunteers for the 2nd Bn., 34th Armor Regt., 1st HBCT, display their Dr. Mary E. Walker awards following a ceremony Dec. 15 at the 1st Inf. Div. headquarters. The Walker award recognizes outstanding volunteers who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life of Soldiers and their Families.

Division recognizes outstanding volunteers with Walker awards

By Mollie Miller
1ST INF. DIV. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Four volunteers whose efforts have improved the quality of life for 1st Infantry Division Soldiers and Families were recognized Dec. 15 during a ceremony at the 1st Inf. Div. headquarters.

Maj. Gen. William Mayville, 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley

commanding general, presented Kelli Kidd, Monika McDwyer and Terrisa Razez with Dr. Mary E. Walker awards during the ceremony. Also recognized,

but not present was Maureen Andrews. The volunteers represented 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div.; 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st HBCT, 1st Inf. Div.; and 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Inf. Div.

"These volunteers have put others before themselves to better the Army way of life," said Frances Sasser, spouse of 1st Inf. Div. senior noncommissioned officer Command Sgt.

Maj. Charles Sasser. "Volunteers make a difference every day, and some even change the world."

Walker is the only woman in U.S. history to receive the Medal of Honor. She was a humanitarian devoted to the care and treatment of the sick and wounded during the Civil War, often at the risk of her own life.

The Walker award recognizes outstanding military spouses who have dedicated themselves to caring for Soldiers and their Families and enhancing the Army's mission readiness.

HOUSE FILL AD

HOUSE FILL AD