

COMMUNITY CORNER

Commander encourages feedback

By Col. William Clark Garrison Commander

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the holidays, some time off and some time with Family and friends.

I anticipate 2012 will be busy for many of you – it certainly will be a busy year at Fort Riley.

Some of you may have heard talk about the “2012 Homecoming.” If you haven’t heard about it, the bottom line is that this year, Fort Riley will see the largest number of troops with boots on the ground in Kansas since the mid-1990s. While we’ve always had a large number of troops assigned to Fort Riley, many of them have been deployed over the past decade.

With operations winding down in the Middle East and Fort Riley welcoming home several Soldiers just prior to the holidays, more of our troops are coming home for longer periods of time. And while troop deployments are always fluid, we’re preparing to have five brigades – around

18,000 Soldiers – home in 2012.

Fort Riley has been doing everything it can to prepare for this influx because it will affect us. Whether in terms of traffic congestion, increased use of garrison services or health care accessibility, I assure you our garrison employees have been working on how we can continue to provide the best possible support for our Soldiers and Families so they can accomplish their missions. Here is what I ask of you

– be understanding as we undergo these changes, but also let us know how we are doing.

At Fort Riley, there are numerous ways to share your comments and concerns:

- At any time, send us an Interactive Customer Evaluation, or ICE, comments by clicking the ICE link on the left-hand column at www.riley.army.mil.

- Post your comments and questions on the Fort Riley



Col. Clark

page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FortRiley.

- Call and leave a message on Fort Riley’s 24/7 phone line, 785-240-TOWN (8696).

- Attend events that allow you to voice concerns like our Army Family Action Plan in the fall or your unit’s Family readiness group meetings.

Use the venue that’s most convenient for you. We provide options to receive feedback because we know everyone has different schedules, different concerns and different access to various media. And we provide all of these options because we want to hear from you.

Instead of wondering why this or that doesn’t happen, take advantage of all of these options and ask us why. If you think something could be done more efficiently, let us know. Maybe you have just the solution we’ve been looking for.

If you would like to comment on this article or suggest a topic for the Community Corner, email rile.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil.

New guide to help military Families navigate Facebook

BLUE STAR FAMILIES

WASHINGTON – On Dec. 19, Blue Star Families and Facebook announced the release of a new guide for military Families.

“The Social Media Guide for Military Families” leads Families through the features of Facebook, makes suggestions for keeping in touch with Family and friends and provides suggestions for personal and operational security. The guide also features case studies from military Families using Facebook to keep in touch personally and professionally.

“The Social Media Guide for Military Families” was authored by Stephanie Himel-Nelson, Blue Star Families communications director and Molly Blake, Blue Star Families website editor, also both members of mili-

tary Families.

Himel-Nelson also is a noted expert on the use of social media among military Families, and Facebook provided insight into the features and products of its site.

“Social media has completely altered the landscape of communication for today’s military Families,” Himel-Nelson said. “But with each notable stride in technology comes greater responsibility. This guide is intended to help our military Families keep in touch with friends and Family, safely and securely.”

The guide can be accessed and downloaded on the Blue Star Families website or Facebook page at <http://bluestarfam.org/facebook>, www.facebook.com/bluestarfamilies or on the Facebook U.S. Military page at <http://facebook.com/USMilitary>.

ABOUT BLUE STAR FAMILIES

Blue Star Families is a national, nonprofit network of military Families from all ranks and services, including guard and reserve, with a mission to support, connect and empower military Families. In addition to morale and empowerment programs, Blue Star Families raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military Family life and works to make military life more sustainable. Membership includes military spouses, children and parents as well as service members, veterans and civilians. To learn more about Blue Star Families, visit www.bluestarfam.org.

Exchange offers some level of support to entire military

AAFFS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DALLAS – On any given day, a variety of visitors, contractors and Department of Defense civilians visit any one of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service’s more than 3,000 food, entertainment and retail operations around the world. The question most frequently posed by these visitors is “Who’s authorized to shop these facilities?”

Exchange service authorization actually begins with the House Armed Services Committee and ultimately ends with the installation commander. The guidelines, as prescribed by Army Regulation 215-8/ Air Force Instruction 34-211 (I) and the Armed Services Exchange Regulations, Department of Defense Instruction 1330.21, require proper identification of authorized cus-

tomers, including uniformed personnel and members of the Reserve Components and Family members, applicable DoD civilians, Exchange associates, retirees and their dependents who possess a basic Exchange purchase privilege authorization card.

While rules governing who can buy merchandise and services at Exchanges often apply to a chosen few, the doors to the Exchange’s 1,500-plus food facilities and more than 300 Expresses are open to virtually anyone looking for a taste of home. In fact, DoD policy allows all federal government employees and installation visitors to dine at Exchange restaurants, as long as their orders are consumed on the installation. Furthermore, anyone can purchase single-serve consumables from an Express, an option that is especially valuable late

at night considering many Exchange convenience stores offer extended hours.

“Most Expresses have Snack Avenues, which offer a broad selection of snacks and beverages,” said Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Helm, the Exchange’s senior enlisted adviser. “Fruit, candy bars, soft drinks and even chicken pot pies can be picked up by just about anyone with business on the installation.”

Anyone who believes he or she may qualify for Exchange benefits, including access to the Exchange may go to www.shopmyexchange.com, select “Exchange Stores” and then choose “Authorized Patrons” from the menu on the left of the page. Store-level contact information is available online at www.shopmyexchange.com under the “Store Locator” link.

Exchange takes hassle out with Sears home delivery

AAFFS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DALLAS – The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has taken the hassle and expense out of getting new furniture, appliances and mattresses home and installed by partnering with Sears home delivery. Through this service, shoppers making purchases prior to 3 p.m. often can schedule delivery for the very next day.

A two-hour window is set the evening before the uniformed Sears crews deliver. Services range from \$79.95 to \$94.95.

“The Exchange’s motto of ‘we go where you go’ now includes going to military homes and installed by partnering with Sears home delivery. Through this service, shoppers making purchases prior to 3 p.m. often can schedule delivery for the very next day.

partnership ensures items ar-

rive safely and are installed properly.” In addition to delivery and installation, old appliances, mattresses and furniture are hauled away for \$10 per delivery, for example, if a person buys a new mattress, the old one can be hauled away. More technical installations or required assemblies can be arranged directly at the Exchange.



How many volunteers does it take to make a difference?

Just one! Imagine the impact that the hundreds of thousands of American Red Cross volunteers have on the quality of life around the World.

Do you...

- Care about the men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and their families and are willing to go the extra mile to help them.
- Share an interest in personal growth and career development

Where to start:

Volunteer Orientation
Mondays at 2:00 pm
510 Grimes Hall Fort Riley, KS

Volunteer Locations

Red Cross Office
Mothers Outreach
Hospital
Vet Clinic
Dental Clinic

For more information on volunteering, contact us at 785-239-1887 or e-mail us at rile_redcross@conus.army.mil



Fort Riley, KS Area Service Members

Do YOU want to become a WARRANT OFFICER?

A Warrant Officer Recruiting Team from Headquarters, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Ft. Knox, Kentucky will brief on qualifications and application procedures to service members interested in becoming U.S. Army Warrant Officers.

Date/Time/Location
7-8 February 2012 @ 1000hrs to 1400hrs
Military Schools Building 8388
Room # D16
8388 Armistead Street
Fort Riley, KS 66442

WO Team POC
CW3 Michael A. Grinter
Comms: (502) 626-0458
DSN: (312) 536-0458
Cell: 877-634-5983
michael.grinter@usarec.army.mil

More information can be found on the internet at www.usarec.army.mil/warrant

EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE



HOUSE FILL AD

HOUSE FILL AD

HOUSE FILL AD

HOUSE FILL AD